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January 13, 2012 • No 139

Shopkeeper vows to keep our lights on or he'll go to jail for trying

By Chris Murphy

tw@kosmedia.co.uk

A SHOPKEEPER says he is prepared to go to jail rather than stop selling old-fashioned light-bulbs.

Jonathan Wright, who runs Classic Lighting in Camden Road, says he will continue to resist the move to energy-saving bulbs – especially while his customers are so keen to buy the old style pearl bulbs.

But he faces a challenge later this year when new EU rules promoting a switch to low energy lighting will outlaw the sale of some forms of bulbs.

Mr Wright, who has worked in the industry for over 40 years, insists people are set in their ways and are resisting the new EU rules which say we should all swap over to low energy lighting.

He said: "I am willing to go to prison over this. People have a right to pick

which sort of light-bulb they have in their own home.

"If they want to use the conventional ones, they should be allowed to do so. We don't have anything at the moment that can mimic the look of the pearl.

"I still stock them and will do for as long as I can get them from suppliers, even if it is against the law. I can't believe it's an illegal act to sell a light-bulb.

"This is a free democratic country and if you want to use an ordinary light-bulb, and pay extra for the energy, you should have the right to do that.

"Some of these new low-energy bulbs contain mercury and have a lot of manufacturing processes to go through. Plus we are getting them from China, so we are throwing all our dirt over there. They are building more and more coal burning power stations to keep up with manufacturing needs and they do far

Continued on page 2



DETERMINED: Jonathan Wright says there's nothing like a pearl lightbulb **SEE INSIDE**

FILM

How I became Ronald Regan

HE made his name in property development, but now Reginald Green is set to hit new heights of fame after playing former American President Ronald Reagan in a new movie depicting the life of ex-Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. The 63-year-old appears in *The Iron Lady*.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Hit the right note in a choir

WANT to improve your physical and mental health but don't fancy going to the gym? Then the answer could be to join a choir and have a good sing-song.

It comes amid a boom in popularity in choirs fuelled by the likes of TV's Gareth Malone.

PAGE 2

SPORT

Wells eye cup clash derby

A PLACE in the semi-finals of the Kent Senior Trophy is up for grabs for Tunbridge Wells on Saturday.

Standing in their way at Culverden are neighbours Sevenoaks Town, who have lost their last four west Kent derbies against Martin Larkin's side.

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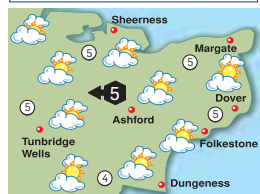
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TODAY: It looks set to be dry with some cloud, but also spells of sunshine, rather hazy at times. A gentle easterly wind. Max temp 3-6C (37-43F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	01.56	6.7	14.13	6.4
Margate	02.50	4.7	15.21	4.6
St Mary's	07.48	5.6	20.12	5.3

WEEK AHEAD

Sunday	Max 6C	Min -1C
Monday	Max 6C	Min 0C
Tuesday	Max 9C	Min 3C
Wednesday	Max 8C	Min 4C
Thursday	Max 9C	Min 5C
Friday	Max 9C	Min 4C

Information supplied by **MeteoGroup**

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ENTERTAINMENT

Boost your health and happiness by rocking with choir

By Chris Murphy

tw@kosmedia.co.uk

WANT to improve your physical and mental health, but don't fancy joining a gym? Then the answer could be simply to start singing.

Organisers point to studies carried out by the Sidney De Haan Research Centre for Arts and Health at Canterbury's Christ Church College recently. It revealed evidence that taking part in regular group singing can significantly improve physical and mental health.

And with the likes of TV sensation Gareth Malone promoting the benefits, there are a growing number of people joining up.

What's more there are a range of different styles for the would-be singer to choose from.

Rock Choir is staging a series of taster sessions over the coming weeks in Tunbridge Wells, Wadhurst, Pad-dock Wood and Crowborough for those who prefer to sing modern classics by the likes of Amy Winehouse, ABBA and Phil Collins.

Local Rock Choir leader Claire Harris

hopes the sessions will be supported sufficiently to ensure a choir can be formed. She said: "We held some free introductory sessions in December which were really popular.

"People can still try Rock Choir out for free. There are no auditions and no need to read music or have any previous singing experience.

"We have exciting and energetic rehearsals leading to local and national performances."

Meanwhile, the new Kent Chorus choir is still looking to recruit members after launching last September.

It has already performed to sell-out audiences and has a performance of Handel's Messiah at the Trinity Arts Centre in April, as well as a mid-summer show at Salomons in Southborough in June.

A spokesman said: "Our aim is to help people rediscover the thrill and joy of singing, and of sharing the enjoyment of great music. It meets on Mondays at 7.45pm at Tunbridge Wells Baptist Church.

Visit www.rockchoir.com for more details on Rock Choir.



SOMETHING TO SING ABOUT: Rock Choir focuses on fun and modern classics

LIGHT

Shopkeeper's plea: Let us keep the good, old fashioned pearl

Continued from front page

more environmental damage. It just doesn't add up."

Mr Wright says the quality of light and speed at which the low-energy bulb illuminates is not a touch on the more traditional bulbs – he is also fuming at the price rises for the bulbs, which he blames on the UK government stopping subsidies to Chinese

manufacturers to make them.

He said: "There have been advances in the technology behind them, but they are still not quite there yet.

"Another alternative is the LED and they are getting better, but many people still simply prefer the good old fashioned pearl, and are upset they are being outlawed."

Defra said the phasing out of ordinary bulbs started in 2009,

and has so far banned clear lamps equivalent to 100W or above, 75W clear incandescent lamps, and from last September 60W clear incandescent lamps. This September sees the last of the clear incandescent lamps phased out.

It said: "The government has been working with all major retailers who sell light bulbs and UK energy suppliers to phase out traditional energy

guzzling bulbs, replacing them with energy efficient light bulbs such as Compact Fluorescent Lamps, or CFLs as they are known.

"The traditional light bulb has not changed for over 100 years since Edison and Swan – the time of Queen Victoria – and these bulbs waste 95 per cent of electricity as heat.

"Climate change is the biggest threat facing our planet

today. It is happening and it is happening now. Everyone – governments, businesses and individuals – needs to work together to tackle climate change by reducing our greenhouse gas emissions.

"By phasing out the traditional light bulbs, we will all be using less energy so will need less electricity. CFLs are up to 80 per cent more efficient than incandescent lamps."

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FILM

Reagan look-a-like swept star off her feet with cameo in Iron Lady movie

By Chris Murphy

chris.murphy@archant.co.uk

HE was already wealthy after selling his property development companies, but Kent's own President Ronald Reagan said he was also paid well to dance with Meryl Streep in the new Iron Lady movie.

Reginald Green, 63, from Tunbridge Wells, said: "I have never acted before in my life, but through a bizarre set of circumstances I ended up dancing and chatting with Meryl Streep in this brilliant movie. I won't say how much I was paid, but I was happy with it."

Mr Green spent his career building up a successful business developing commercial properties, and also his skills as a ballroom dancer.

He still dabbles in property, but admits he now just does it for fun.

He said: "On the day of filming, I was introduced to Meryl Streep and we were told to just chat and get to know each other. We had to dance around a circle.

"We had been doing that for a while, laughing and chatting about almost anything, and then we got a tap on the shoulder and told that was fine – they had what they wanted.

"We didn't even know the cameras were rolling, so what you see on the screen is us being perfectly natural with each other.

"Nothing was scripted and we were not told what to do or say. It was utterly natural and great fun and took about half an hour.

"I had done some rehearsing earlier in the day, but that was about it.

"I do have a taste for this now, and have signed up to be a look-a-like for Reagan. An agent in America has also shown some interest in me going over there, so I am looking forward to that happening.

"Margaret Thatcher is someone well known over there. You either loved her or hated her, but she was never someone you could miss.

"This has all happened so fast – I have been in a great film, albeit briefly. I am en-



DOUBLE TAKE: Streep and Reginald (right) recreated Reagan and Margaret Thatcher's dance of 1981

joying it all now, and am well aware it could all end just as fast – I am under no illusion about that."

In the film he can be seen dancing with Mrs Thatcher, in a scene set in 1981, but only for a few seconds. Streep is being tipped for an Oscar for her role.

Reginald said: "I have a friend in Australia and for some reason, the scene lasts a bit longer in their cut.

"I thought it was all a big wind-up when a freelance talent scout told me Pinewood was looking for a dancing Reagan to be in this film and my name was being considered.

"But then the studio rang me directly, and I knew it was all real."

He never got to go to the European premiere, and said: "I went to see it at Bluewater and was very impressed.

"It seemed like a different cut again from the preview I saw last year with the cast and crew."

He is also considering getting in touch with the Internet Movie Database website.

Reginald said: "They used to have me on the cast list, but for some reason took me off. I may get in touch and ask why they have Reagan



down as himself as archive footage."

He loved dancing and said his original training was done by Sevenoaks' Anton du Beke before he became famous, but apart from some make-up his hair needed to be dyed, which was his only real preparation.

He said: "When we got on to the set, she just told me 'You lead and I will follow'.

"I said I couldn't imagine the real Mrs Thatcher ever saying that to Reagan and she laughed. We hit it off."

■ See www.yourtunbridgewells.co.uk for all the very latest news and sport headlines.

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ Police officer attacked

TWO men have appeared before magistrates charged with assaulting an off-duty police officer on Sunday, January 8. Gary Love, 28, and Phillip Love, 25, both of Vauxhall Road, Canterbury, are charged with assault causing actual bodily harm and affray. The officer was treated at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford before being allowed to go home. Officers were called to assist their colleague at 3.20pm following the alleged incident in the High Street, Canterbury.

➔ Chicken farm blaze

THOUSANDS of chickens died during a fire at a farm in Cranbrook Road, Frittenden, near Staplehurst, on Wednesday. More than 50 firefighters were needed to tackle the blaze, and a huge plume of smoke could be seen from miles away. The blaze started at around 11.20am and no-one was hurt in the incident. Residents living nearby were advised to keep windows and doors closed because of the large amount of smoke.

➔ Dave's freeman honour

COMEDIAN Dave Lee is to be given the Freedom of the City of Canterbury in recognition of "the great and lasting enjoyment that he has given to the people of Canterbury; in particular in his comedy performances, his tireless fundraising work." Mr Lee has starred in 16 pantos at the Marlowe and his charity, Dave Lee Happy Holidays, has enabled thousands of sick and under-privileged children to enjoy holidays.



COURT

Jail for man with county's largest ever haul of child sex abuse films

A FOLKESTONE man has been jailed for 30 months in what was Kent Police's largest ever seizure of indecent films.

Andrew Pratt, of Park Close in Hawkinge, admitted 17 counts of possession with a view to distributing indecent images of children.

The 47-year-old, who was a serving officer for the UK Border Agency, was arrested after 6,606 indecent films were recovered from a computer, laptop, hard drives and a memory stick found at his home by police on April 15, 2011.

Canterbury Crown Court heard how information from the Child Exploitation Online Protection service (CEOP) led Kent Police to uncover a vast library of indecent material kept by Pratt, with more than 14 days of footage, over half of which was classed at the highest levels of seriousness.



'ADDICTED': Andrew Pratt

Chat logs were also recovered containing conversations between Pratt and others discussing or arranging the sharing of child abuse material.

Pratt claimed collecting the images and footage of children was an addiction and he didn't look at many of them.

Det Sgt David Shipley said: "Pratt had an astonishing quantity of material, which he appeared to be proud to share with likeminded individuals.

"By making this material available to others, he encourages the abuse of children. People engaged in this behaviour have no concept or care for the suffering that is caused."

On release, Pratt will have a supervision requirement, be subject to a lifetime sexual offences prevention order, and will have to sign on the sex offenders' register indefinitely.

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BRAVERY



STANDING TALL: George Turner's (far left) tale is reminiscent of Steven Spielberg's new film version of the popular children's book War Horse

Hero braved German bombardment to save real-life War Horses in WWI

By Ed Hill

ed.hill@arahant.co.uk

STEVEN Spielberg's multi-million dollar adaptation of the children's tale War Horse is released in cinemas this week.

But one Kent woman has her own family tale to tell about the animals sent to the battlefields of World War One, and the brave men who fought with them.

Ruth Turner, from Ashford, still has the Blue Cross handbook given to her grandfather George Turner instructing him how to look after his horse while at the front.

In fact the serviceman, who was engaged as a driver delivering ammunition and supplies to the soldiers, was awarded the Military Medal for bravery because of his concern for a horse's welfare.

Ms Turner said: "My grandfather was crossing France on his horse Dolly with his division, taking ammunition and supplies to the Allies at the frontline. The Germans had an observation balloon overhead and the Sun, which was low in the sky, glinted off the horse's bristles, alerting the enemy to their presence.

"The Germans sent the signal to their troops on the ground, who opened fire, shelling my grandfather and his comrades.

"My grandfather was blown off his horse and after pulling himself up, realised one of his other horses was badly injured by shrapnel. He took the ammunition from the injured animal, loaded some onto his horse and the rest on his own back and led both animals, under heavy fire, into a

wooded copse in the middle of the field."

Like the character Albert in Michael Morpurgo's much-loved novel, George was just 16 when he joined the Army in 1914. As a carpenter's apprentice he had little experience with horses, but was given the task of delivering supplies with the 56th (London) Division Royal Artillery.

He battled on with one horse to reach his comrades, but he was still concerned about the other horse he had left behind, which was badly injured. Not wanting the animal to suffer a painful death, George braved the carnage of the enemy shells again so he could put it out of its misery with a gun.

Ms Turner said: "He was determined to return, while continuing on to the lines to deliver the ammunition.

"This act of courage shows how deep the bond was between my grandfather and his horses. Very few survived the shelling that day, but despite great danger to himself he refused to leave that horse to die a lonely death."

The young soldier's bravery was witnessed by a French officer through his binoculars who recommended George be awarded a medal for his bravery.

An interview with Ruth forms part of a new audio-visual archive on the Blue Cross website, launched to coincide with the War Horse film.

It is estimated more than six million horses and mules played their part in World War One, some 1.2 million under the British Army.

When war first broke out in 1914, the Blue Cross – then known as Our Dumb Friends League

– tried to improve the welfare of the horses which were taken from the safety of the British countryside and hurriedly mobilised alongside men for the war effort.

The charity set up veterinary hospitals close to the front to help treat the injured animals.

Steve Goody, director of external affairs at the Blue Cross, said: "The silent suffering of the war horses struck a chord with the British public and their generosity enabled us to make a real difference on the frontlines."

To find out more about the charity's history, or make a donation visit www.bluecross.org.uk/warhorse.

■ Read all the very latest news and sport headlines at www.yourashford.co.uk.

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ £1 million Lotto winner

A LOTTERY player from Tonbridge and Malling is now a millionaire after finally coming forward to claim their prize from the Christmas EuroMillions Millionaire Raffle draw on December 23.

The prize had remained unclaimed until a few days ago, and last week Lottery chiefs made an appeal for players to check outstanding tickets.

The winner was one of 25 millionaires created in the special draw as part of the National Lottery's Millionaires Month.

➔ PM glad of Mb boost

PRIME Minister David Cameron has welcomed news from Virgin that it will increase broadband speeds, and that Dover, Ashford and Maidstone are some of the first areas that will see 10Mb increased to 20Mb; 20Mb and 30Mb increased to 60Mb; 50Mb increased to 100Mb; and 100Mb increased to 120Mb. Mr Cameron said: "It will provide a great boost for the economy and change the way households, consumers and businesses use the internet."

➔ 80-year-old run over

AN 80-year-old woman was run over down while she was using a pedestrian crossing in Whitstable. The accident involving a blue Ford Escort happened in Oxford Street close to the town's library just after 5pm on Wednesday. The woman suffered serious head injuries and was taken to the Queen Elizabeth Queen Mother Hospital in Margate where she was said to be in a critical condition.

COURTS

16 police cars left damaged after man spread tacks outside stations

A 59-YEAR-old man who sprinkled metal tacks outside a number of police stations, causing hundreds of pounds of damage to the tyres of police cars, has narrowly escaped being sent to jail.

Kevin Bance, of Brookfield, Kemsing, near Sevenoaks, scattered hundreds of the tacks he used in his job as an upholster outside the exits to police stations in Tonbridge, Coldharbour and Swanley.

In total, 16 police vehicles had their tyres punctured as a result of his actions, while one elderly woman was injured when she accidentally stood on one while walking past

Tonbridge police station last April. A further 23 cars were also damaged.

However, police captured him on camera after studying CCTV footage.

And on Monday he pleaded guilty to three counts of causing danger to a road user and a further count of harassment. He was fined £2,000 and given a supervision order after appearing before Maidstone Crown Court.

In addition, Bance admitted sending an envelope containing an unknown white powder to a police officer in revenge after receiving a previous fine for disorderly behaviour in 2010.

Investigating officer Det Con Nicola Brown of Kent Police, said: "What was a malicious and thoughtless act in laying these tacks, caused damage to numerous police vehicles, which had to be taken off the road while their tyres were repaired.

"I hope this fine will help Mr Bance reflect on the serious consequences of his actions, and that attacks on Kent Police staff in any form will not be tolerated."

Bance was given a three-year supervision order and told to pay £1,922 in compensation for the damage caused to the police cars.

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News

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AWARDS

Public show their support for 'Kent's food and drink heroes'

PRODUCED in Kent has announced the shortlisted finalists in the Taste of Kent Awards 2012.

The three finalists in each of the 12 publicly voted categories now have a nail-biting wait to hear if they will be amongst the dazzling dozen to lift an award when they attend the glittering gala awards dinner at Oakwood House Hotel, Maidstone, on Friday, March 2.

This year has seen a 20 per cent increase in voting by the public.

Produced in Kent manager Julie Monkman said: "The Taste of Kent Awards seeks to recognise and reward Kent's food and drink heroes. The awards have once again really captured the imagination of the general public and it's great to see the consumers of Kent voting in their thousands for their favourite restaurants, dining pubs and farmers' markets – as well as the food and drink producers behind the



VOCAL SUPPORT:
Produced in Kent's Julie Monkman presenting last year's Taste of Kent Awards

county's award-winning food and drink products.

"With everything from apple ketchup to sloe gin chocolates passing by the judging panel at the end of January, the team will certainly have their taste buds tested as they have to

choose just one winner in each category."

The biggest increases in voting came in the Kent Restaurant of the Year category, which saw a 59 per cent increase in votes, and the Kent Local Food Retailer of the Year, which was

up by a massive 78 per cent.

Now the three best in all 12 categories will come under the scrutiny of an expert panel of judges, mystery shoppers and diners.

To follow the awards visit www.tasteofkentawards.co.uk.

PRODUCED IN KENT'S SHORTLIST FOR



KENT MEAT RETAILER OF THE YEAR: Butcher of Brogdale, Faversham; Godmersham Game, Canterbury; JC Rook and Son, Ramsgate

BEST KENTISH BEER: 1606 Bitter – Old Forge Brewery, Ashford; Gadds No 3 – Ramsgate Brewery, Ramsgate; Master Brew – Shepherd Neame, Faversham

BEST KENT WINE: Ortega 2010 – Biddenden Vineyards, Biddenden; English Rose – Chapel Down Winery, Tenterden; Vintage reserve Brut – Chapel Down Winery, Tenterden

BEST KENT CIDER OR PERRY: Appley Ever After – Big Three Cider, Hartley, Dartford; Biddenden Strong Kentish Cider – Biddenden Vineyards, Biddenden; Duddas Tun – Pine Trees Farm, Doddington

BEST KENTISH FRUIT JUICE: Apple juice – Biddenden Vineyards, Biddenden; Cox/Bramley apple juice – Core Fruit Products, Canterbury; Cox apple juice – Duskins, Canterbury

KENT LOCAL FOOD RETAILER OF THE YEAR: Hadlow College Farm Shop, Hadlow; Macknade Fine Foods, Faversham; Mama Feelgoods, Bekesbourne, Canterbury

KENT SEAFOOD RETAILER OF THE YEAR: Eddie Gilberts, Ramsgate; Griggs of Hythe, Hythe; Sankey's Tunbridge Wells

ARTISAN FOOD RETAILER OF THE YEAR: Simply Ice Cream, Ashford; Taywell Ice Cream, Paddock Wood; Quex Foods, Birchington

KENT RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR: Elvey Farm, Pluckley; Marquis of Alkham, Alkham; Mulberry Tree, Boughton Monchelsea

KENT DINING PUB OF THE YEAR: The Halfway House, Challock; Pearsons Arms by Richard Phillips, Whitstable; The Plough at Stalisfield Green, Faversham

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TELEVISION

Kent author's work the hidden inspiration behind hit TV show

Exclusive by Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

AS BBC TV's hit show Sherlock reaches a climax this weekend, the previously unknown origins of the reinvention of the detective who was first created by the pen of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in 1887 have been revealed.

The show's creators Steven Moffat and Mark Gattis have transferred the adventures of the Baker Street sleuth and his accomplice Dr John Watson to the 21st century, to great acclaim from viewers and critics.

But it was the work of Ashford author Michael Hardwick which was largely to be their inspiration.

Mr Hardwick, who died in 1991, lived in The Street, Kennington, with wife Mollie, also a writer.

During his life he created many new Sherlock Holmes adventures in the Conan Doyle style, as well as writing the novelisation of an irreverent film made by American director Billy Wilder called The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes.

This has now been revealed as one of the major influences



REFRESHING READ: The BBC's Steven Moffat revealed that Michael Hardwick's 'fun' adaptation of the Sherlock Holmes story was a key inspiration for the TV series

of the new show, by Steven Moffat who was speaking to the Sherlock Holmes Society of London.

Holmes expert Alistair Duncan was in the audience and recorded his thoughts on the

speech on a website dedicated to the show.

He said: "The series' roots appear to lie in... Moffat's love of the incarnations of Holmes that were a little irreverent and, in his words, 'more fun'.

"He referred to the films of Basil Rathbone and the film The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes and, in particular, his discovery of the novel based on the film.

"Much to our amusement he referred more than once – I think about five times – to his shock at the sight of a certain naked woman who was to be found on the book's cover."

The new show, which has its last outing on BBC One at 9pm on Sunday, stars Benedict Cumberbatch as Holmes with Martin Freeman as his colleague Dr Watson.

The coming episode is entitled The Reichenbach Fall, a pun on the location in Switzerland where the original literary Holmes had a fatal confrontation with arch enemy Professor James Moriarty.

The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes is a 1970 film that starred Robert Stephens in the

title role and Colin Blackley as Watson.

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TV DETECTIVES: Martin Freeman and Benedict Cumberbatch

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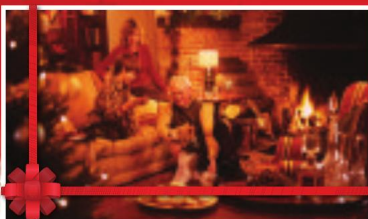
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KOS CAMPAIGN

A free safety gas check could be the difference between life and death

By Ed Hill

ed.hill@archant.co.uk

ACCORDING to the Gas Safety Register 81 per cent of elderly homeowners in Kent have never claimed a free gas safety check.

The industry body is urging people who are entitled to the service to contact their gas supplier during the colder months.

It says when a gas boiler, gas fire or heater fails, the average home can quickly drop to 16°C, the temperature at which hypothermia can set in.

These low temperatures are more serious for the elderly, whose temperature falls faster than younger people.

According to the Office of National Statistics, around 4,000 people in the South East died as a result of the cold last year.

Archant KOS Media is backing the Surviving Winter Campaign organised by the



Kent Community Foundation.

The scheme invites well-off households to donate some or all of their £200 winter fuel payment to poorer elderly or vulnerable people. The payment is given tax-free by the Government to every house with a person aged 60 or over.

The UK has the highest winter death rate in northern Europe, so gas appliances need to be checked so they will get elderly people safely through the winter.

The cold weather can cause or exacerbate illnesses such as high blood pressure, thrombosis or respiratory infections, as it weakens the immune system.

Signs that a gas boiler is not working correctly and producing dangerous carbon monoxide may include sooty stains on or around appliances, floppy yellow flames (instead of crisp blue ones), and excessive condensation in a room.

Paul Johnston, chief executive of the Gas Safe Register, said: "We're urging everyone to take whatever support they can to keep safe and warm this winter."

"Having your gas appliances checked annually is vital to ensure they are running safely. If you don't get your appliances checked every year, you are risking gas leaks, fires, explosions or carbon monoxide poisoning."



SAFE AND SOUND: The Gas Safety Register urged everyone to take all the support they can to keep warm during the winter

"Although all appliances need to be checked every year, it's very important for elderly people as appliances in their homes tend to be older and not as reliable."

■ **To find out if you're eligible for a free gas safety check, visit www.GasSafeRegister.co.uk.**
■ **To donate to the Surviving Winter campaign visit www.kentcf.org.uk/surviving_winter.html.**



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HISTORY

Long forgotten polar explorer's letters rediscovered in ceiling

Exclusive by Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE chance rediscovery of papers up to 150 years old may shed further light on the story of a forgotten hero from Dover.

Explorer, botanist and surgeon Dr Reginald Koettlitz made trips to the north and south Arctic regions, across Africa, and down the Amazon.

But a falling-out with legendary explorer Dr Robert Falcon Scott has led to him being largely forgotten as his contributions to the great days of exploration were ignored or overlooked by the establishment of the time.

Gus Jones has written a book on the doctor's exploits and is now waiting to study further documents.

They had been stored at a building which occupies 151-153 Folkestone Road, Dover. It is now flats but was once the home of Dr Koettlitz.

Fifteen years ago plumber Gary Rogers, from Dover, was working on the site when a ceiling collapsed, showering him in debris.

Amongst the plaster he found correspondence and notes from the period 1860-1900 from Dr Koettlitz.

Writer Mr Jones, whose wife Ann is a relative of the explorer, said: "Gary kept the documents until he learnt of my interest. Then he gave them to me. My first job is to clean them up, but I'm hoping they will give an even greater insight into a man who has, up until now, been lost to the pages of history."

Dr Koettlitz was a day-boy at Dover College from 1873-76 and worked as a doctor in the town, with a surgery at Charlton House, London Road, when not away on expeditions.

On one trip to the far north he shot a polar bear for its meat. He later had this stuffed and placed in a shop window in the town to advertise a series of lectures



HISTORIC: Dr Reginald Koettlitz sailed with Dr Robert Falcon Scott. Dr Koettlitz is pictured below in his doctor's surgery, and wearing polar clothing. Also pictured are the polar bear he ate, and a poster of one of his talks



taking place in the town hall and at the college.

The bear is now on display in Dover Museum, which also has skis, snow shoes and medical equipment from Dr Koettlitz's polar expeditions, when he was part of Scott's crew on board RRS (Royal Research Ship) Discovery.

Five months after setting sail on August 6, 1901, from the Isle of Wight, the crew sighted the Antarctic coastline.

During the first month Scott began charting the coastline. Then, in preparation for the winter, he weighed anchor in the treacherous and icy waters of McMurdo Sound. The ship remained there, locked in ice, for the next two years – the expedition had expected to spend the winter there and to move on in the spring.

Despite this, the explorers were able to confirm that Antarctica was indeed a continent rather than a sheet of ice, as is the North Pole region, and they were able to determine the Southern Magnetic Pole to its correct location.

Scott, along with colleagues Ernest Shackleton and Edward Wilson also achieved a 'Furthest South' of 82 degrees 18 minutes.

The ship was eventually freed on February 16, 1904, by the use of controlled explosives which allowed the ice to be moved away by butting and shunting, thus assisting in the breakup of the ice.



RRS Discovery finally sailed for home, arriving back at Spithead on September 10, 1904.

The vessel, which gave its name to Arthur C Clarke's spaceship in the film 2001 A Space Odyssey and also a Nasa space shuttle, is now moored at Dundee.

Mr Jones will talk about his research to the Dover Society this Monday at St Mary's Parish Hall in the town centre.

■ **For more information about the new book, see p47.**

■ **All the latest news and sport headlines at www.yourdoover.co.uk.**



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News

REGENERATION

Public inquiry holds key to future plans for Dreamland

By Ed Hill

ed.hill@archant.co.uk

THE two-week public inquiry into the future of Margate's Dreamland began this week.

Thanet District Council wants to push ahead with ambitious plans to turn it into a multi-million pound heritage theme park.

The council originally served a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) on the site's owner, the Margate Town Centre Regeneration Company (MTCRC) in June, 2010, after negotiations about its future broke down.

The council believes Dreamland, which closed in 2005, is key to the town's regeneration and, along with Turner Contemporary, heralds its revival.

It is working in partnership with the Dreamland Trust to create a heritage amusement park of historic rides, side shows and cafés.

Cllr Clive Hart, leader of Thanet council, said: "We have done everything we can to negotiate



UPS AND DOWNS: Dreamland's Scenic Railway

with the current owners to redevelop the site, but regrettably we have been forced down the CPO process for the benefit of the town.

"We cannot have a such an important site in Margate blighted for much longer. The Turner gallery is making a big difference, but the sea-front is not looking its best.

"Hopefully this will be the catalyst for other businesses in the town."

The initial improvements to the site have already secured £10 million of public funding if the council gets control of the 16-acre site: £3.7m from the Sea Change fund; £3m from the council; and £3m from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Work has already started on restoring the Grade-II listed cinema at the entrance to the park. The project also aims to make the Grade-II listed Scenic Railway rollercoaster, built in 1920, the centre of the attraction.

MTCRC has put forward its own regeneration plans for the site which includes an amusement park alongside 400 new homes. It argues the Dreamland Trust's scheme will not attract enough visitors and is not sustainable.

The inquiry is expected to end on January 25.

MTCRC's barrister at the inquiry Richard Glover QC said: "The council fails to show that it has the money to acquire the land and carry out the works it proposes. So it cannot provide any confidence that, if the order is confirmed, the scheme will happen."

A report from the Planning Inspector is expected in late February or early March.

■ **More news at www.yourthanet.co.uk.**



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News

CRIME

Illegal immigrants lucky to be caught by officials before freezing to death

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A LORRY driver tried to smuggle 16 illegal immigrants into Kent in the back of his refrigerated truck, but unlike 12 years ago when 58 Chinese nationals froze to death, they somehow survived.

The driver from Lithuania was stopped before his arrival in the county.

And luckily for those locked in the back of his freezing lorry, customs officials found them before they perished.

Redas Rauckis (pictured), was sentenced to four years' imprisonment by Judge Nigel van der Bijl who said no-one had been injured, but the immigrants were at risk of hypothermia because of the low temperature.

Now the 23-year-old has been ordered by Maidstone Crown Court to pay back £1,163.70 he made in illegal earning following a confiscation hearing.

Canterbury Crown Court heard in August last year, that Rauckis' truck was stopped in the ear-



ly hours of Friday, May 20, 2011, at the freight control at Coquelles, France, and examined.

Inside, hidden among the load of frozen deserts which were being stored at -23 degrees centigrade, were the 16 illegal immigrants.

After the case Det Chief Insp Mark Fairhurst, from the Serious and Economic Crime Unit of the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate, said: "The Proceeds of Crime Act al-

lows us to recover profits, and we will continue to work to ensure that those making a living from crime will be forced to pay back money obtained through illegal means."

In 2000, horrified customs officers found the bodies of 58 people, including four women, from China, in the back of a Dutch registered lorry.

It had just arrived in Dover on a ferry from Zeebrugge, Belgium. Customs opened it up to find a scene "out of a nightmare" as two men were gasping for breath. They were the only survivors amid the crates of tomatoes.

It's believed they had been locked in the lorry for around 18 hours in freezing conditions.

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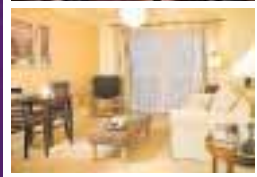


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News

HEALTH

Patients able to remain at home thanks to success of remote health monitoring

By Rob Colman

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A HEALTH scheme that was piloted in Kent is to be rolled out across the country.

The Kent test project for telehealth and telecare found the technology can lead to a 15 per cent reduction in accident and emergency visits, a 20 per cent drop in emergency admissions, and 14 per cent less planned admissions to hospital.

The technology is for patients with long-term conditions and uses electronic equipment in the home to read vital health signs such as pulse, weight, respiration and blood oxygen levels.

The results can be read remotely by health professionals, enabling patients to stay in their own homes safe in the knowledge that a doctor or nurse will be alerted if a problem should arise.

Telehealth uses electronic equipment to monitor patients' vital health signs and send readings to health professionals, while telecare offers 24-hour safety monitoring, using personal and environmental sensors in the home.

Now the scheme is with their patients to be rolled out over the next five years to three million patients across the country with long-term conditions.

Care services minister Paul Burstow said: "These trials have shown how people with long-term conditions can live more independently, reducing the time spent in hospital and improving their quality of life."

The pilot found that, over a six-month period, telehealth technology resulted in savings of around £1,878 per patient; which could result in savings of £7.5 million across Kent.

Following the successful pilot project, NHS Kent and Medway, Kent Community Health Trust and Kent County Council are already working to bring telehealth and telecare to more patients in the county.

Researchers reported that telehealth led to reductions of 45 per cent in mortality.

One patient who already uses the equipment is 54-year-old Haris Patel from Folkestone – who suffers from a number of health conditions.

He said: "Before I used to spend 10 months of each year in hospital. Since I got telehealth, I have been in for two weeks in three years, and that was planned. Telehealth gives me peace of mind."



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FIRST GIFT:

Octavia Hill (right) gave the National Trust one of its first properties in Toys Hill, (far right). Since then the trust has grown to acquire many more properties including, from the top, Sissinghurst, Scotney Castle, South Foreland Lighthouse and Emmetts Garden



ENVIRONMENT

Awards ensure the spirit of environmental hero lives on

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

VISIONARY campaigner Octavia Hill founded the National Trust, and to mark the centenary of her death, the organisation is launching a new hero award in her name.

The county has strong links to Ms Hill – who lived at Crockham Hill, near Westerham, where she is also buried.

And in 1898 she gave the Trust one of its first properties,

in nearby Toys Hill village, and since then the Trust ownership has expanded until in 1981 it acquired the core of the woodlands through a special appeal.

It is now known as Octavia Hill Woodland and is home to the Octavia Hill Basecamp, used for group holidays, education and voluntary work.

During her lifetime, Octavia helped save two other Kent hills from development, Mariners Hill and Ide Hill.

Now the Trust wants to mark the her extraordinary work to preserve Britain's heritage and landscape, with the launch of the Octavia Hill Awards.

The trust said: "Octavia was a Victorian social reformer and a founder of the National Trust who set the standard in campaigning for green places.

"The Octavia Hill Awards, which mark the centenary of Octavia Hill's death, aim to find the modern-day champions and guardians of our precious pieces of outdoor space."

There are six individual awards up for grabs on an annual basis.

These are: growing hero for someone who's set up a community growing scheme, or saved allotments; the natural hero is for individuals working for community spaces like woodlands, nature reserves or orchards; inspirational hero recognises someone for nurturing the next generation of enthusiasts; and the people's campaigner celebrates someone in the public spotlight who has done something amazing to champion an issue or cause.

Also there are awards for green space guardians, and finally the love place award which is specifically for National Trust volunteers, individuals or groups, who have enabled communities to benefit from the open places.

Hilary McGrady, National Trust director for London and the South East said: "Octavia Hill was a social reformer, pioneering environmental cam-



paigner and founder of the National Trust, she championed our green spaces during the period of rapid industrialisation and huge change that gripped Victorian Britain.

"She and her fellow campaigners saw a clear threat and wanted to protect these 'green lungs' in our towns and cities as places to enjoy the benefits of being in the outdoors.



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INDUSTRY

Fishermen who sold up pour cold water on £3.8m regeneration study

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AS fishing companies continue to struggle in Kent's waters, it has been announced that £3.8 million of Euro Funds have been made available to finance an academic project looking for ways to regenerate the industry.

But one major fishing firm that has just gone out of business after being based at Whitstable for 40 years says no-one in authority really cares about them and they were plagued with bureaucratic meddling.

Patrick and John Gilson ran their company Cardium Shellfish for decades, but in November they sold out to a Spanish company specialising in canning cockles.

Now researchers at the University of Greenwich at Medway are heading the £3.8m project to help regenerate coastal fishing communities in areas including Kent and across the Channel.

The team said it was focusing on towns and villages with traditional small scale fishing fleets, like Whitstable, and will be looking at the ways inshore fishing contributes to the identity of places and their communities as well as seeking new sustainable opportunities to boost regeneration and economic growth.

Patrick Gilson, 60, who now works for the new Spanish owner Dani Seafoods, told Archant KOS Media: "I can't believe they are spending so much money on something like this.

"The money would surely be better spent putting in a slipway at Whitstable so we can get our boats out of the water rather than have to sail miles to other ports. Plus it would be nice to have some basic facilities at the port like closer toilets and showers for the crews.

"I worked in Australia for a while, and over there, they can't do enough for the fishing crews.

"It's so different here – the bureaucrats are constantly sticking their noses in, coming up with ways to hamper the industry."

The University of Greenwich team is headed by environmental geographers Dr Tim Acott and Dr Julie Urquhart, plus social scientist Dr Minghua Zhao. The three-year project is called Geography of Inshore Fishing and Sustainability.

Dr Urquhart said: "Inshore marine fishing is at the heart of so many places, whether they have just a few small fishing boats on a beach or a harbour that is the centre of activity for a large fleet.

"You cannot think about places like Whitstable without recalling fishing and seafood. Inshore marine fishing is central to their identity."

The project is getting its cash from the European Regional Development Fund 2 Seas cross-border programme.

Project leader Dr Acott, added: "We will be building on valuable research we have already been doing in fishing communities."

He continued: "Working with researchers in France gives us a cross-cultural perspective and opportunities to share ideas – not least how the sense of identity within fishing communities can make a contribution to regeneration and sustainable economic growth.

"Our findings will help to provide the information people need to develop new activities to regenerate their communities and feed into policy decisions which will ensure a sustainable future. We are hoping to help create a sense of shared identity in fishing places."

Plans include photographic exhibitions about life in fishing communities and a demonstration of fishing heritage-led regeneration at the fishing village of Arnemuiden, in The Netherlands.

Ironically, the academics used a picture of

former Cardium's OlyRay fishing boat in their publicity. Patrick added: "I am amazed they have used a picture of our boat, considering we had to sell up. It really is quite ironic.

"I can't see how a photographic exhibition

will help us, and I really don't understand what 'heritage-led regeneration' means or how it will enable the fleets to make a better living."

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IRONIC: The OlyRay is pictured in report publicity

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KENT REMEMBERED



CALM BEFORE THE STORM: 15,000-tonne battleship HMS Bulwark moored on the Medway in 1914

Dockyard hit twice by death and destruction

By Rob Colman

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE Medway's historic dock has played a prominent role in the history of British maritime for almost 400 years.

The dockyard covers an area of 80 acres with around 100 superbly crafted buildings built mostly between 1704 and 1855, and has served some of the most prestigious battleships in history, but also survived historic major disasters.

On November 26, 1914, HMS Bulwark, a 15,000-tonne battleship, was moored at buoy number 17 at Kethole Reach on the River Medway, taking on coal from the airship base at Kingsnorth, on the Isle of Grain.

At 7.50am, as the crew were having breakfast, an explosion ripped the ship apart, and was heard as far away as Whitstable and Southend.

Eye witnesses said once the smoke has cleared, there was no sign of the ship. Naval divers who investigated the wreck three days after the explosion found just two large fragments of wreckage – a section of the port bow as far aft as the sick bay, and 30ft away a section of the starboard bow.

Debris from the explosion fell up to four miles away.

In all, the explosion killed 745 men and 51 officers.

Five of the 14 men who survived later died of their wounds, and almost all of the others were seriously wounded.

There are mass and individual graves in Woodlands Cemetery in Gillingham for the Bul-



UP IN SMOKE: Hundreds died aboard the ship during the explosion

wark's dead, many of whom originated from the Portsmouth area. In terms of loss of life it remains the second worst explosion in British history.

Many at the time immediately suspected sabotage.

The subsequent Naval Court of Inquiry, held at the Royal Naval Hospital, Gillingham, found that much of the ammunition for the ships guns had been stored in the corridors between the 11 magazines, and that either a fault with one of the shells or overheating cordite near a boiler room bulkhead could have started a chain reaction which destroyed the ship.

While the dockyard was still coming to terms with the catastrophe of HMS Bulwark, less than six months later a second explosion erupted.

This time it was the 1,500 passenger liner Princess Irene, a ship commandeered for war service before she could leave Britain.

Built at Dumbarton, Scot-

land, in 1914 for Canadian Pacific, she became HMS Princess Irene and was used as a mine layer.

After several trips she was back at Medway for a refit on May 27, 1915, when a huge explosion tore through the vessel, shaking the ground for miles and showering villages with remains of bodies and debris.

In all 278 died, including 78 workers from nearby towns and villages.

Once again sabotage was suspected, but it would seem the mine charges were unstable and awaiting replacement.

Most of the bodies of the men who were killed in the explosion on HMS Princess Irene are still at the bottom of the Medway Estuary.

Of those that were washed ashore, 10 are buried in a communal grave with unidentified men who died on HMS Bulwark.

■ **More news and sport at** www.yourmedway.co.uk.

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OPINION

21st century healthcare

Alison Davis explains how new NHS technology tested by patients in Kent is set to help transform the home lives of three million people

TECHNOLOGY pioneered in Kent is set to transform life for at least three million people across the country.

Locally, we have already seen what a dramatic effect telecare and telehealth can have on the daily life and wellbeing of people with long-term health problems after it was introduced by the primary care trusts in Kent and Kent County Council seven years ago.

Take, for instance, Haris Patel, 54, from Folkestone whose health conditions include problems caused by hardening of the arteries.

He said: "Before I had telehealth, I used to spend 10 months of each year in hospital. Since I got it, I have been in for two weeks in the last three years, and that was planned. Telehealth gives me peace of mind."

Now the Department of Health is so impressed with the results of the Whole System

Demonstrator Programme, which tested the technology in Kent, Cornwall and Newham, that it is championing its use nationwide.

The project found there was a 45 per cent reduction in deaths among patients taking part, a 15 per cent drop in attendance at A&E, and 20 per cent fewer emergency admissions to hospital.

Care services minister Paul Burstow said: "People were absolutely clear that high-tech healthcare has improved their lives for the better."

"I want to see more people across the country benefit. That is why we are working with industry, the NHS and councils to change the lives of three million people across England over the next five years."

So what is this technology? Telecare, introduced in Kent in 2004, offers remote monitoring of people's safety. Available to

vulnerable people, who meet specific criteria, it consists of sensors that can be worn (such as a falls monitor on the belt) or placed in the home (such as a flood alarm if someone might not remember to turn off the taps).

Sensors are connected to a 24-hour monitoring centre which contacts the person and raises the alarm if there is a problem.

Telehealth, which enables remote monitoring of people's health, is even more innovative.

Available in Kent since 2005, it offers suitable patients with conditions such as diabetes, lung disease and heart disease, the chance to measure their pulse, blood pressure, blood glucose, blood oxygen level, peak flow (lung capacity), temperature and weight, all at home.

Their community matron from Kent Community Health NHS Trust, or specialist nurse, monitors their readings from day to day, picking up subtle



6699

I want to see more people across the country benefit

changes in their health before they develop into something more serious.

This helps people stay well – as does the power it gives them over their lives. People get to 'know their numbers' and understand the impact their day-to-day life has on their health, so they can spot when things are deteriorating and take action.

It has been such a success that the technology is no longer just a pilot – it is being rolled out across Kent and Medway and will be available as part of the care package for those who are eligible.

This is a wonderful example of what the NHS and social care can achieve by working closely together to improve the quality of life for local people.

■ Alison Davis is associate director of integrated commissioning with responsibility for technology for NHS Kent and Medway.

KOS COMMENT

The hidden reality of Kent's child poverty

THE shocking but grim reality that almost half of children living in some parts of Kent are in poverty is a stark reminder of how close to home this often hidden problem really is.

It's easy to dismiss poverty as something that happens elsewhere, but this is something that blights communities across our county.

The last few years have been tough for most, but there's a difference between not being able to buy those extra bits in the weekly shop, and struggling to feed your family and keep them warm through the winter.

This should be a wake-up call to the Government that something needs to be done urgently to ensure there's hope of a brighter future for these children.

Explorer rediscovered

WHILE most cases a roof collapsing would prove unlucky, in this instance it led to the discovery of evidence of a forgotten hero who may otherwise never have been recognised.

It's only right that after all these years explorer Dr Reginald Koettlitz gets the praise he deserves.

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**HMS
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by Paul
Jerreat



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Let's catch the metal thieves

HOMES, churches, schools and businesses in the county are all suffering increasing levels of metal theft, with lead roofs, copper piping and electronic cabling all considered fair game.

Even manhole and gully covers have been disappearing from our roads, costing the taxpayer hundreds of pounds for each replacement.

Metal is a tempting target, not just because it is worth so much, but because it is so easily converted to cash.

Thieves now even resort to stealing metal name plaques from churchyards and war memorials, in exchange for a few pounds from unscrupulous scrap metal dealers.

The existing situation where anyone can sell anything to for cash, with no questions asked, has to be challenged.

We have been lobbying the Government to amend the

Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964, so all dealers are licensed, cash sales are prohibited and enforcement powers and penalties are enhanced so metal thieves face the full consequences of their crimes.

I would encourage anyone actually, or potentially, affected by metal theft to write to their MPs, asking them to support MP Graham Jones in his Metal Theft Prevention Bill.

And I would urge readers to report any thefts to the police and their Countrywatch contact. They might think it's not worth it, but the police cannot allocate resources on the basis of hearsay – they need statistics.

**Judith Norris, chairman,
Country Land and
Business Association,
Kent branch**

Heed guiding lights advice

I DEFY anyone to drive one mile along any road in Thanet

after lighting up time and not pass at least one car driving along with only one headlight working.

I recently followed a police car during holiday break and we passed two such cars – and the police did nothing.

If safe to do so, I stop drivers and point out that only one of their headlights is operational and most are grateful to be told, actually. Some tell me it's none of my business, though.

It can be extremely dangerous on a dark road to see one headlight approaching you, as you might think it was a motorbike.

I beg your readers to check their headlights. A bulb is cheaper than a written off car or, worse still, a funeral.

**Paddy Earp,
Broadstairs**

Reader's right to sound off

I AM writing in support of JR O'Neon's letter (last week).

I am unable to comprehend how this annoying background music can be held to improve the content of so many TV programmes.

Surely the only reason for any such music is to improve the atmosphere, not to boost the income of whoever gains from this practice.

Put a stop to it now, please.
**Charles Wanostrocht,
Sandwich**

County Hall in need of change

LAST week's letter from Terry Hudson on the unaccountable and dysfunctional actions of Kent County Council and its Tory leaders was spot on.

To think this council takes the lion's share of our local council tax and then fritters away hard-earned cash on astronomical pay-offs instead of de-icing roads, mending potholes and pavements, cutting back roadside

hedgerows and tending trees.

Maybe another shake-up of local government layers is due, or we can kick out these uncaring Conservatives in the May, 2013, elections.

**Alan Bullion,
Tunbridge Wells**

Energy needs policy rethink

ONCE again Ian Taylor wheels out his climate change denial and economic status quo view (last week's paper).

The fact is that Green politics is based on established and irrefutable science about man-made climate change, and far more progressive social, economic and environmental ideas than any of the old parties.

Even the likes of Viscount Monckton et al, usually say they accept climate change is happening and our fault, but whine about supposed costs and future computer projections of the consequences.

On costs though, a recent report by Prof David Mackay at the Department of Energy and Climate Change suggests that low-carbon energy is "no dearer than doing nothing".

Granted he includes nuclear, but far more sensible in my view would be a great expansion of solar panelling.

Instead of the Coalition cutting the subsidies and speeding up the other renewables like tidal and wind to help cover future energy usage I, and the Greens, suggest this would also help create far more jobs in those industries rather than in persisting with more highly centralised, secretive and overly powerful nuclear and fossil fuelled ones.

As for thorium use, this may be being pursued in India, but it is still only in its infancy, unproven, and is again a fossil fuel.

The UK would have to pay to mine and transport it for use here, thus releasing more greenhouse gases in the process.

On fracking I point out that last month's report by Deloitte showed that most of the farmers in the US who leased land for that process now very much regret doing so, and the US Eco Protection Agency has shown the polluting of water tables, including by methane, caused by fracking.

In general, many commentators and economists are now saying we simply cannot continue with more of the same social, economic policies that have brought us to our current parlous state.

Harking back to 18th and 19th century models of growth, as the Tories, Lib Dems and still neo-con Labour, appear to be doing, will only result in a return of Dickensian levels of penury and misery for the 99 per cent, while the top one per cent continue to get the spoils.

Instead we need a paradigm shift to, I suggest, a green, democratic and co-operative society including social enterprises and worker councils on larger firms, a la the old German model.

These, as has been suggested along prosperity without growth lines in books, of the same title, by Dr Tim Jackson, itself recommended by no less than Prince Charles, the New Economics Foundation, Green Party, TUC, and many others.

**Ray Duff,
Folkestone**

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P&O ready to challenge Eurotunnel in ferry saga



THERE'S A STORM COMING: SeaFrance has been placed in administration and its ships docked

Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

FERRY giant P&O has threatened to report Eurotunnel to the European Commission if its plan to buy the ships of the insolvent SeaFrance breaches European competition rules.

P&O Ferries, which accounts for some 30 per cent of traffic on the Dover to Calais route between England and France, gave the warning after Eurotunnel, the Channel Tunnel operator, revealed that it might buy SeaFrance's three ships from the company's administrator.

Eurotunnel executive chairman Jacques Gounon said his company could lease the ships, all built in the last five years, to a new operator, possibly formed from a cooperative of SeaFrance staff.

France's Tribunal de Commerce or-

dered SeaFrance's liquidation on Monday after it ruled out accepting any of the bids that had been made for the company.

SNCF, France's rail company, owns the maritime operator, which had long been making a loss on the highly-competitive route, where its main competitors are P&O, a British-registered company but with the government of Dubai as its sole shareholder, Denmark's DFDS and Eurotunnel, which in recent years has carried about 40 per cent of the traffic.

The closure of the company would lead to 127 job losses in Dover and up to 900 more across the Channel.

A lack of investment, rising fuel prices and industrial unrest have all hit the French company hard and a large number of strikes have taken place over bank-holiday weekends by a mili-

tant, unionised workforce, while freight traffic has decreased due to the economic downturn and Eurozone crisis.

SeaFrance's vessels have been tied up out of use since the court placed the company in administration in November. French president Nicolas Sarkozy has backed efforts to find a way of saving the 1,100 jobs at SeaFrance, whose fate has become a big issue ahead of April's presidential election. He said on Monday: "I believe it is possible to say there will be a credible solution."

A statement from Chris Laming, P&O communications director, called the saga a "never-ending battle" to persuade the French authorities that there should be a level playing field between operators.

"If we felt that competition rules were being breached by our major cross-Channel competitor – Eurotunnel, with

40 per cent of the market – we would complain vigorously to the competition authorities in a bid to protect our own position," he said. "But the ball is very much in their [Eurotunnel's] court."

Under the Eurotunnel plan, the Tunnel operator would buy the ships as an investment and lease them to a new market entrant.

M Gounon said: "We cannot let the only French company in the port of Calais disappear."

He added that a cooperative of SeaFrance workers was the "most credible" proposition for SeaFrance and "the most socially acceptable". The court, however, ruled out the workers' bid.

Nathalie Kosciusko-Morizet, France's ecology and transport minister, said another company, Louis Dreyfus Armateurs, had put in a bid for SeaFrance but it had been rejected by a French court.

APPRENTICESHIPS

MP pleased with hefty rise in apprenticeships

GOVERNMENT figures show there were more than 700 apprenticeship starts in Sittingbourne and Sheppey in 2011, compared with 440 the previous year – a rise of 64 per cent.

Local MP Gordon Henderson said he was a strong supporter of apprenticeships and was positive this growth would be a long-term trend as employers and potential apprentices began to see the benefits of an apprenticeship for themselves, their businesses and the economy.

Sittingbourne and Sheppey has long been home to a wealth of industries, with Sheerness docks, a steelworks and brickworks, Kent Science Park and Kemsley paper mill, along with business parks hosting many small and medium-sized businesses.

Kent Science Park is also proving popular with businesses looking to start up or relocate.

There is also the recently-built Morrisons distribution centre and possible future business investment in Vestas and Aescia Pharmaceuticals on Sheppey, which holds potential for the future of apprenticeships in the area.

Mr Henderson said: "I support the measures to make it easier to take on apprentices and want to support businesses in increasing the number of apprenticeships within my constituency."

SEMINAR

Forum shows you how to use public relations to boost your business

THE good, the bad and the ugly sides of public relations will be discussed during the inaugural Institute of Directors marketing and communications forum.

The seminar, delivered by Tunbridge Wells PR and marketing agency Maxim, will encourage attendees to consider how they can use PR to build a stronger company profile.

Andrew Metcalf, a director of Maxim and vice-chair of IoD Kent, will be at the event.

He said: "This forum will provide an insight into the world of public relations, giving delegates tips on how to both avoid the pitfalls and make PR work for their organisation."

"It is also an opportunity for business leaders to reflect on how best to protect their hard-earned

reputations and what may work for them when it comes to marketing during 2012."

Simon Robinson, senior account executive at Maxim, will also speak.

He said: "During my time as business editor at Kent on Sunday I saw many examples of good PR and well-written press releases but, sadly, many examples of releases that did not hit the mark."

"By following a few simple tips you can give your press releases a greater chance of being used."

The event will take place at the Clydesdale Financial Services Centre at Turkey Mill, Maidstone, on Monday (January 16) from 8.15am-10am. It is priced at £15 for IoD members and £25 for non-members. Phone 023 80266548 to book a place.

ENVIRONMENT

Private hospital given international award

MARGATE'S Spencer Private Hospital, which provides healthcare for both private and NHS-funded patients, has received an award for its commitment to environmental issues.

It has been given an ISO 14001 – an internationally-accepted standard that assists organisations in putting into place an effective environmental management system.

It was instigated via guidelines set down by the first Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992.

The hospital has a 22-en-suite-bed unit on the site of the QEOM Hospital and a five-bed unit within the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford.

This award is for the management of administration systems supporting the care provided within the hospitals.

Manager Lynn Orrin said: "As part of our ongoing commitment to minimise our company's environmental impact, we looked to establish an environmental management system that would support the organisation's commitment to this important issue."

"To achieve the award, the organisation identified and recorded the environmental aspects and impacts of its activities."

Eco-friendly rail freight service is put back on track

INTERNATIONAL logistics business Stobart Group has restarted its low-carbon, rail freight service between Valencia in Spain and Barking, east London, using the lines at Folkestone.

The seasonal rail service is operated by Europorte Channel, part of GB Railfreight, the third largest rail freight operator in the UK and a subsidiary of Groupe Eurotunnel. It will carry 30 chilled containers of fruit and vegetables from Spain to supermarkets and retailers in the UK.

The first train was monitored throughout the journey by the latest satellite tracking software, which closely observes progress and ensures the temperature of each 45ft-long, refrigerated container remains suitably chilled.

The journey takes just over 50 hours, with the service passing through Spain, France and the Channel Tunnel. It saves some 250 cross-continent truck journeys every month, slashing vehicle carbon emissions and cutting congestion on Spanish, French and British motorways.

In an innovative move, Europorte Channel and Network Rail have used the international rail lines at the Folkestone end of the tunnel, removing the need for an extra stop on the northbound leg of the journey – cutting costs and journey time.

The new service has been part-funded by a European Union Marco Polo grant and will initially run weekly, building up to five services per week at peak times.

Liam Martin, Stobart Rail freight managing director, said: "The resumption of this seasonal service has been driven by the commercial advantages it offers and the environmental benefits. It will help take trucks off European motorways and ease congestion at key pinch-points such as the Pyrenees.

Kevin Walker, director for Europorte Channel, said: "Working closely with the team at Stobart Rail, we have been able to adapt to the demand of our customer and to the challenges of such a long route through the European railway network. This is a truly international partnership that demonstrates the added value cross-Channel rail freight can bring."

Expert advice for small companies

CHARTERED accountancy group ICAEW has launched an initiative in Kent to help small companies and start-ups with business and financial advice to aid economic growth.

The Business Advice Service (BAS) says it can open the door to expert guidance on how best to start, plan, manage and grow a business.

Mark Spofforth, ICAEW deputy president, said: "Start-ups or growing small businesses need the best advice to succeed at a time of fragile recovery and limits on public spending.

"In response, BAS will offer SMEs the opportunity to discuss their business with a qualified chartered accountant through a free initial consultation. ICAEW chartered accountants will be able to offer expert advice on a whole range of issues facing them – from starting a business to turnaround, restructuring, financial management or taxation issues."

Fay Webster, South East regional director, said: "SME growth is crucial to the UK's economic success. In tough economic conditions, small businesses need the right advice and support to succeed.

"With the Government looking to encourage an export-led recovery, SMEs should seek out opportunities overseas to bolster growth."

Polished performance is a winner for one colourful husband-and-wife team

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

A DISASTER-restoration and cleaning business that came to the rescue of 200 flooded homes and businesses has won a national award.

Wayne and Chris Crossfield, who run the Swanley branch of Rainbow International, were inundated with calls for help during last winter's cold snap.

The couple and their team worked round the clock helping flood victims across south-east London and north-west Kent. In addition, throughout the year the company has come to the aid of homes and businesses that have been hit by fire, flood and accidental damage.

Now its efforts have been recognised with the Franchisee Of The Month award, beating off competition from 85 other franchises.

The couple started the business three years ago and now have a five-strong team of skilled technicians. During that time they have doubled their operating area and have recently moved into a 2,500 sq ft emergency response centre in Park Road, Swanley.

Rainbow International specialises in restoring homes and businesses following fire, flood or accidental damage, as well as providing a commercial and domestic cleaning service.

The couple have invested £100,000 in specialist equipment and training, including deep-cleaning tools for commercial kitchens and ductwork, thermal-imaging equipment and leak-detection equipment to provide a fast service for dealing with escapes of water.

The business also provides a restoration service for damaged office equipment and household contents, including antique restoration.



SHINING: Wayne and Chris Crossfield are congratulated by technical manager Nigel Hewitt, right

Mr Crossfield said: "We have invested heavily in equipment and staff training to ensure we can provide a fast, effective service and that investment is paying off through the growth of our business.

"It's a real boost to win this award and I am

grateful to all our staff for their continued support and commitment."

Rainbow's Phil Else said: "Wayne and Chris thoroughly deserve this award. They are a credit to the company and a first-class example of what can be achieved with a can-do attitude."

Cruise terminal preparing for busy season with 250,000 passengers expected to dock at Dover

WITH 156 visits from cruise-liners, the 2012 cruise season is going to be another busy year for Dover Cruise Port.

More than 250,000 passengers will experience the facilities and services available at the port's cruise terminals and the attractions on offer.

Ships from prominent cruise organisations including Fred Olsen, Saga, Holland America, Ibercrueros and Pullmantur will all return to Dover Cruise Port as well as the extremely popular AIDA with inaugural visits by AIDAluna and AIDAmara. Other inaugural calls include Oceania's Nautica, All Leisure Group's Discovery, Royal Caribbean's Brilliance Of The Seas and the Costa Fortuna. Saga's regular visiting vessels,



STARTING POINT: Dover Cruise Port will host visits from prominent ships

Pearl II and Ruby, will be joined by new ship Sapphire for the first time in May 2012.

Highlights during the season also include Azamara Journey,

making its Dover debut early next summer, and the return of MSC's Lirica and Poesia to the port on four occasions during the season, operating four-night

mini-cruise itineraries to and from Amsterdam and Hamburg.

Hapag Lloyd's Europa and Windstar's Windsurf will also dock, enabling passengers to experience what Kent has to offer as part of their northern European itineraries.

Kate O'Hara, head of commercial and marketing at the Port of Dover, said: "First-class levels of service, excellent facilities and a wealth of shore excursion opportunities, coupled with the high-speed rail service to the centre of London, have contributed significantly to the growth we are enjoying.

"Repeat customers already know there's no better way to start a European cruise than sailing into the sunset against a backdrop of the White Cliffs."

Apprenticeships could benefit economy... not just the young

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

A LEADING voice in the business community has vowed to do all in its power to assist young people who can't find work and is lobbying Westminster for greater help.

The Federation Of Small Businesses says the 85 additional unemployed people in Kent and Medway revealed in the latest jobless figures "might not appear significant", but members say it is devastating that they join more than 35,000 people in the county without a job.

Canterbury, with a high proportion of employment in the public sector (40+ per cent) suffered the biggest downturn, with 74 more people joining the dole queue – a criterion that would qualify new jobs for an employers' National Insurance incentive in the west and north of the UK but that has not been forthcoming in Kent.

The group is particularly concerned at the effect unemployment has on young people trying to start their careers.

Roger House, FSB chairman in Kent and Medway, said: "The FSB has been lobbying the Government to implement job-creation incentives. Following our disappointment at the rejection of the South East Local Enterprise Partnership bid for funding to support apprenticeships in Kent, we very much welcome new measures announced by the Business Secretary on November 16 that should ensure more young people will benefit from an apprenticeship."

To encourage thousands of small firms that don't hire apprentices, the Government will offer employers an incentive payment of up to £1,500 and processes will be simplified to make it quicker and easier for employers to take one on.

Mr House said: "A third of businesses responding to an FSB survey said this would encourage them to take an apprentice on, and a rebalancing of current funding to provide this is something the FSB has called for, for some time."

"Nevertheless, there remains a need for a continued focus on helping small businesses over-



THE FUTURE'S LOOKING BRIGHT: The Government is offering employers up to £1,500 in incentive payments if they choose to take on young apprentices

come the barriers that they face in doing so."

The Government terminated its Graduate Internship Scheme earlier this year – which the FSB believes was an error. The programme had supported paid internships in small businesses for 8,500 graduates.

The federation says it is still calling on the Government to extend the scheme because at least 5,000 new internship placements can be made at a cost to Government of £8 million – instantly reducing benefit payments by at least £1.5m.

Mr House said: "With 25 per cent of interns being offered permanent work, this would also boost Treasury coffers by a further £3.37m over the course of one year in reduced Job Seekers Allowance payments and add a further £5.4m in tax payments, as well as boosting the productivity of the UK economy. We are urging the Government to reintroduce this scheme."

The FSB says more than three-quarters of 11- to 18-year olds (77 per cent) say they would like to start their own business in the future.

Members feel education systems across the UK should nurture entrepreneurship so future gen-

erations are equipped with the confidence and skills to run their own business. Young Enterprise provides an opportunity for students aged 15-19 to set up and run their own company.

Mr House said: "The FSB is working with Young Enterprise across Kent and Medway to encourage schools to join the YE Company Programme."

"The FSB has set aside £5,000 sponsorship to assist schools to participate in the programme and to give young people the employability skills they need."

Schools not currently running Young Enterprise and who would like more information should phone FSB 01622 688134 or email office.kent@fsb.org.uk.

Services-provider is cutting its carbon footprint by introducing new river jetty

FM Conway has marked its 50th anniversary with the opening of its asphalt plant in Erith and a new Thameside jetty.

These two new additions mean the company can supply asphalt products, increase its recycling capacity and take delivery of aggregates by ship.

This use of river transportation will reduce the number of lorry movements in and around London by 15,000 journeys a year, thereby reducing CO2 emissions by 1,025 tonnes per annum.

Conway's Erith plant is the most energy-efficient facility of its kind in the UK.

Since becoming operational 15 months ago, the plant has become the busiest single asphalt plant in the country,



MAIN MAN: Michael Conway

with operational availability 24 hours a day, all year round.

Michael Conway, chief executive officer for FM Conway, said: "This asphalt plant is the realisation of our goal to become a truly integrated service-provider."

During operations the plant has so far produced more than 450,000 tonnes of asphalt. The material produced has paved roads and been used for schools, hospitals, dockyards, rail depots, car parks and areas of the Olympic Park.

The asphalt plant delivers products that have been developed by Conway's research-and-development team at the material-testing laboratory at nearby Mulberry Way.

The new Conway Jetty and Wharf will receive more than 250,000 tonnes of aggregate per year. The wharf has been designed to berth 6,000-tonne ships; the jetty features an automated conveyor system that can operate at a rate of 500 tonnes per hour.

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Keep Kent Working!
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College tasters for unemployed

NORTH West Kent College is offering unemployed people the chance to try out its vocational courses at Dartford and Gravesend in February.

Special taster days for people who are out of work are being offered in hairdressing and office skills at Dartford and Gravesend; and in professional cookery, engineering and construction at Gravesend only.

Engineering at Gravesend features on January 25, while construction and other subjects are featured throughout February.

Further information is available on the college's website at www.nwkccollege.ac.uk and the free places can be booked on 01322 629637.

Apprentices win building awards

TWO apprentices from Canterbury Cathedral have won awards at the annual Building Crafts College prize-giving.

Fourth year stonemasonry apprentice Sam Matthews won two awards, The Worshipful Company of Masons prize for Outstanding Effort, and what was referred to as the "college Oscar", the Sir Bannister Fletcher Prize for the College Student of the Year.

Jake Wood, a second year apprentice stonemason, was awarded the Avery Knight Trophy for Best Performing First Year Stonemasonry Student.

Heather Newton, head of stonemasonry and conservation at the cathedral said: "We are very fortunate here at Canterbury to have such talented and motivated young apprentices – it inspires confidence that the cathedral will be in safe hands for generations to come."

"It was a wonderful evening and both boys deserved their awards as they have worked very hard. They have also both participated in national SkillBuild competitions and Sam was awarded a silver medal – so it bodes well for the future."

The Canterbury Cathedral Apprenticeship Scheme offers apprenticeships in carpentry, electrical, gardening, plumbing, scaffolding and stonemasonry, and has recently introduced a chef apprenticeship in the Cathedral Lodge.

Prince's Trust course for the young jobless

THE Prince's Trust is to run a new photography and animation course to help unemployed young people gain the skills and confidence they need to find work.

The course will be run in partnership with the South East Physics Network Team based at the University of Kent in Canterbury.

This comes as more than one-in-five young people in Kent are struggling to find a job.

The Trust is now looking for unemployed 16 to 25-year-olds from Kent to take part in its five-day Get Started with Photography and Animation programme running from February 6.

The free course will help young people with an interest in

photography and art to develop confidence, motivation and teamwork skills to boost their chances of getting a job.

Participants will have the chance to create their own light drawings and animations by using a variation of photographic techniques.

All young people will receive mentoring support for three months after the course to help them find work or access further training.

Last year, more than three in four young people helped by the Prince's Trust moved into work, education or training.

A taster day for those interested in signing up to the course being held on Wednesday, February 1.

To apply for the course or for

more information contact Harj Sangha on 07795166355 or text Animation to the same number.

Travel costs will be reimbursed and lunches provided for all young people taking part.

The Prince's Trust charity was founded in 1976 by Prince Charles to help young people across the UK.

It runs a range of training programmes, provide mentoring support and financial grants to build the confidence and motivation of disadvantaged young people.

Each year it works with 40,000 young people across the UK, with around 80 per

cent moving on to employment, education, training or volunteering.

It gives practical and financial support, developing key workplace skills such as confidence and motivation.

It works with 13 to 30-year-olds who have struggled at school, have been in care, are long-term unemployed or have been in trouble with the law.

Last year, more than three in four young people helped by The Prince's Trust moved into work or training.

The Enterprise Programme is the scheme for which the Prince's Trust is best known and it helps young people start a business.

Young people can benefit from the programme if they are aged 18-30, are unemployed, or working less than 16 hours a week.



BY ROYAL APPOINTMENT: Prince Charles's charity works to help young people

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817136.

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Learn about teaching courses and qualifications available in Medway

AN open evening to find out about teaching qualifications will take place this week.

The informal event will be on Tuesday, January 17, at the Rochester Adult Education Centre/Community Hub from 5-7.30pm.

The open evening will be an opportunity for teachers, tutors and trainers both in the private and public sectors, to find out about the range of teaching qualifications and short courses, chat to tutors, and get advice

and guidance on their own development needs.

The teacher training team of Medway Adult and Community Learning Service (MACLS) will be on hand to discuss options and answer questions.

Anyone who is currently teaching adults or who wishes to explore their options for adding another string to their bow has been encouraged to attend and meet the team.

On top of teaching qualification courses such as PTLLS and

DTLLS, MACLS range of courses has expanded to include: assertiveness for teachers and trainers; developing your professional persona – using professional actors' techniques to develop and improve teaching delivery and presentation skills; the new Level 3 Assessor's Award (TAQA); and two day-intensive train-the-trainer.

No appointment is needed and for more information, email natasha.french@medway.gov.uk or call 01634 338476.

Chemistry students get teeth stuck into food project



CHILLI pepper heat and the antibacterial properties of honey are among the fields being explored by scientists at MidKent College.

Students working towards the Higher National Diploma in applied chemistry are undertaking their own in-depth research projects, the likes of which are not usually carried out until the second year of university.

The strength of the projects will go a long way in determining the scientists' final HND score, which if high enough can be topped up into a full degree with further study at university.

Programme area leader for applied science, Eleanor Wood, said: "Most scientific discoveries are the result of years of study by lots of people investigating lots of different things, so you never really know what you're going to end up with. But fingers crossed we'll get some interesting results."

"Most of our students who go on to university have sailed through their degrees thanks to having already taken part in projects like this, with some even helping to teach Masters students."

FEELING THE HEAT: Chemistry student Miles Balderston works on his chilli pepper project

Among the research projects being undertaken by the young chemists is one looking at the antibacterial properties of honey – in particular how much more effective the New Zealand-produced Manuka honey is compared to cheaper high street brands.

Meanwhile, 19-year-old Chatham resident Miles Balderston is attempting to devise a scientific scale for measuring the temperature of chilli peppers.

He said: "The most common scale used at the moment is the Scoville scale, which is completely unscientific because it relies on different people tasting the chilli peppers. The other way to test their temperature is to use a technique known as High-Performance Liquid Chromatography, but that's still not an exact science."

Computer school snaps up places on industrial placement programme

THE University of Kent's School of Computing is celebrating record numbers of students on its industrial placement programme.

Almost 100 students are on placement with a range of businesses – from global institutions to smaller specialist companies – in the UK and overseas.

The placements were secured following assessment and competition against students throughout the country.

"Last year, we had 59 Kent

students on industrial placements," said Katie Van Sanden, one of the industrial placement co-ordinators in the school of computing.

"This year, despite the tough economic climate, 96 students are working with organisations, from Disney, Microsoft, Accenture and IBM to creative design agencies and the 2012 Olympics Organising Committee.

"Now, more than ever, students need more than a degree to embark on a meaning-

ful graduate career."

A particular success story is the Kent students working for Cisco Systems, the networking company, based in San Jose, California.

Cisco selected four students – Phil Styles, Zach Antonas, Sergios Charalambous and Paul Wozniak – to spend a year working on cutting-edge technology in Silicon Valley.

Next year, the number of students at Cisco is likely to be at least double.

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To arrange an informal visit and application please contact:
Brendan O'Connor, Clinical Manager. Tel 01304 821331

The Spencer Wing is an independently owned and managed private hospital. We have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford and a 22 bed unit situated on the QEOM Hospital site. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

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To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact
Lynn Orrin, Hospital Manager - 01843 234554

For job description and application form please contact:
Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd, The Spencer Wing, QEOM Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4BG
Telephone: 01843 234556 Fax: 01843 296333
E-mail: jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com

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SOVA is a leading national volunteer mentoring organisation working with those socially and economically disadvantaged in England and Wales.

Serco Job Deal is an initiative designed to support offenders back into work by improving their employment prospects and tackling barriers to employment. SOVA is currently expanding this service within East Kent and now requires a Case Manager to implement this service.

Case Manager Ref: CMEK01

Hours: 35 per week (F/T)

Starting Salary: pt 25 (range 25-35) £21,421

Base: East Kent (Canterbury, Folkestone and Thanet)

The main purpose of this post is to work closely with Probation Service to provide case management to community payback participants referred to Serco Job Deal (Kent). The post holder will be required to implement this service and have the skills to set up and maintain strong relationships with both clients and partners/funders and other external stakeholders, in order to achieve targets.

For an application form and further details visit the SOVA website at
www.sova.org.uk

Or contact

SOVA Recruitment
Unit 201 Lincoln House
1-3 Brixton Road
London SW9 6DE

Telephone: 020 7793 5867 Email: sa@sova.org.uk
Clearly stating the post reference

Closing date: 31 January 2012 at 5pm.
Interview date: 17 February 2012



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NTC has recently undergone a Support Staff re-structure and as a result, a Full Time vacancy has arisen for a DT and Engineering Technician.

The working hours of 37 hours per week is Term Time, plus 74 additional hours which can be agreed with the Headteacher and in line with school requirements.

Appointment will be subject to satisfactory safeguarding & vetting checks including references & a Fully Enhanced CRB.

Please contact the School Office if you would like further information on how to apply for this position.

Closing date: Friday 27 January 2012

Further details are available from Miss E Stuart

Email: office@ntc.kent.sch.uk

Web: www.ntc.kent.sch.uk

Tel: 01474 533802

Head: Jane Partridge





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Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE

or email dawn.coady@archant.co.uk

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BIRTHS

BENNETT

Alfie Beau born on 16th December 2011, weighing 6 lbs 1 oz. Son to Tony and Louise Bennett in Minster Thanet

BUCKEL

Natalya and Keith Buckel of Maidstone celebrate the birth of their daughter Ruby Mae on the 25th December 2011, weighing 7lb and 6oz.

RAI

Shanvi Rai born on 20th December 2011, weighing 2390grams at 12.24am to proud parents Roshani and Upendra of Maidstone.

DEATHS

DEATHS

HARTUNG

Franklyn George Hartung reunited with Doreen on 4th January 2012, much loved and greatly missed by his children, grandchildren, family and friends. Please contact Birds Family Funeral Directors with regards to funeral arrangements. 01622 749616. All very welcome.

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Closing date: Wednesday 18 January 2012

Westlands Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

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www.westlands.kent.sch.uk

Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461

Email swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr J Whitcombe MA

Westlands Academies
Trust Company No 7344732

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Interviews: week commencing 23rd January

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Closing date for the post: 23rd January 2012

Interview Date: 27th January 2012

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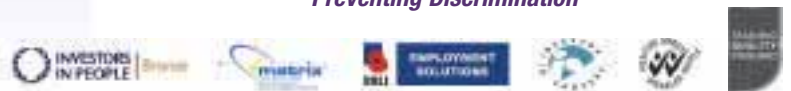
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HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Ashford

ASHFORD ROAD, HAMSTREET
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of essential bridge repairs, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Ashford Road, Hamstreet, from Saturday 4 February 2012 at 00.05 hours until Monday 6 February 2012 at 05.00 hours, or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the railway bridge, with no access through the village.

The alternative route is via Ashford Road, A2070 Hamstreet By-pass, Marsh Road and The Street.

CRANBROOK ROAD, BIDDENDEN
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to carry out a new water connection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Cranbrook Road, Biddenden, on or after 16 January 2012 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed to the west of the junction with Mockbeggar Lane.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Chapel Lane and Mockbeggar Lane.

The alternative route is via Chapel Lane, A262 Sissinghurst Road, Tenterden Road, Benenden Road and Cranbrook Road.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT, 1984
(ZEBRA CROSSING - SCHOOL, ROAD, HOTHFIELD, ASHFORD)

Notice is hereby given that Kent County Council, as local traffic authority, and after consultation with the chief officer of police, propose to establish a crossing (Zebra) for pedestrians under Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all their enabling powers, as follows:

SCHOOL ROAD, HOTHFIELD
Adjacent to 20 School Road, Hothfield
Dated 15 January 2012

Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager
Kent County Council Highways

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

HAM SHADES LANE, WHITSTABLE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works requiring underground access to provide a new phone service, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Ham Shades Lane, Whitstable, on or after 31 January 2012 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of 52 and 54 Ham Shades Lane.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Oakwood Drive and Foxgrove Road.

The alternative route is via Church Street, A2990 (Old) Thanet Way and Foxgrove Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, WINCHEAP, CANTERBURY)
(7.5T WEIGHT LIMIT) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above named Order under sections, 1, 2(4) and part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order will have the following effect:-

HOLLOW LANE, HOLLOWMEDE, ELHAM ROAD, COGANS TERRACE CANTERBURY	Prohibition of any goods vehicle with a maximum gross weight capable of exceeding 7.5 tonnes to proceed in Hollow Lane from the junction with Wincheap (A28) to the junction with Homersham or in Hollowmede, Elham Road, or Cogans Terrace, Canterbury, except for loading.
--	--

Prohibition of any goods vehicle with a maximum gross weight capable of exceeding 7.5 tonnes to proceed in Hollow Lane from the junction with Wincheap (A28) to the junction with Homersham or in Hollowmede, Elham Road, or Cogans Terrace, Canterbury, except for loading.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ, and at Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, CT1 1YW.

If you wish to offer support for, or object to, the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to:

The Traffic Management Team, 1st Floor Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX.

Or by email to td.eastkent@kent.gov.uk
By 12 noon on Monday 13th February 2012.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford

MANOR ROAD, SWANSCOMBE- (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 A
S AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Manor Road, Swanscombe between Swanscombe Street, Betsham Road and Rectory Road.

The Order will become effective on 30th January 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 3 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Gunn Road and Rectory Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate Gas main replacement works

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

LIVERPOOL ROAD, WALMER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to repair a damaged sewer, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Liverpool Road, Walmer, on or after 16 January 2012 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Cambridge Road and Grove Road.

The alternative route is via Cambridge Road, A258 Dover Road and Liverpool Road.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(CHURCH ROAD, OTHAM)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Church Road outside of "Little Squerries" on or after Monday 16th January 2012 for a period of up to 10 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Deringwood Drive, Willington Street, A274 Sutton Road, Gore Court Road.

South East Water apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to install two washout hydrants on the existing mains. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Ruth Epps on 01634 276169.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

CANADA FARM ROAD, SOUTH DARENTH (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Canada Farm Road, South Darenth between Three Gates Road and Rabbits Road.

The Order will become effective on 16th January 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 30th January 2012 and will last 2 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Scudders Hill, Valley Road, Fawkham Road Fawkham, Main Road Longfield, Green Street Green Road Longfield, Canada Farm Road Longfield, Canada Farm Road South Darenth.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate drainage works.

COMPASSES HILL LEIGH - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Compasses Hill from

Camp Hill to B2027 Penshurst Road Leigh.

The Order will become effective on 15th January 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 16th January 2012 and will last 3 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: approaching from the East, West along B2027 Penshurst Road, North and East along Camp Hill.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate carriageway patching.

PROSPECT ROAD SEVENOAKS - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Prospect Road Junction Quakers Hall Lane, Sevenoaks.

The Order will become effective on 15th January 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 16th January 2012 and will last 2 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Quakers Hall Lane, Cobden Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate gas mains replacement.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

THE CRESCENT & WILBERFORCE ROAD, SANDGATE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of sewer repair works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on The Crescent & Wilberforce Road, Sandgate, as shown below.

THE CRESCENT will be closed to through traffic in the vicinity of numbers 30 to 37, from 30 January 2012 for up to one week.

The One-way Traffic Orders will be suspended in respect of The Crescent, and Wilberforce Road from the eastern junction with Sandgate Road to the junction with The Crescent, to allow access.

The alternative routes are either via The Crescent, or via Wilberforce Road and The Crescent.

WILBERFORCE ROAD will be closed in the vicinity of Southover Court, from 6 February 2012 for up to 1 day.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Wilberforce Road will be suspended between the junctions with The Crescent and Hill Side to allow access up to the point of closure from either direction.

The alternative route is via The Crescent and A259 Sandgate High Street or via the west section of Wilberforce Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, NEW ROMNEY)
(WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL, acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of their powers under sections 1(i), 2(i) to (3), 3 (2), 4 (i) and (2), 32 (i), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, hereby make the following Order:-

1. The Order "THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (Various Roads, New Romney) (Waiting Restriction and Street Parking Places) Order 2012" will introduce a no waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on the following lengths of road in New Romney.

LITTLESTONE ROAD - NEW ROMNEY

- (i) Littlestone Road - From a point 20 metres east of its junction with Station Approach to a point 10 metres south of its junction with Station Approach.

STATION APPROACH - NEW ROMNEY

- (ii) Station Approach - On the western side to a point 10 metres south of its junction with Littlestone Road.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Sessions House, Maidstone ME14 1XQ, between 8.30am and 5.00pm and at Shepway District Council Offices, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, during normal opening times.

Anyone wishing to support the new proposal or object to the proposed Order should send the grounds in writing to:

The Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 13th February 2012.

HIGHWAYS - District of Swale

STONE LEVEL CROSSING, BUCKLAND (SWALE)
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to replace rails, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Stone Level Crossing, Buckland, on or after 22 January 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The planned closure times are from Sunday 22 January 2012 at 1.50 am until Monday 23 January 2012 at 4.10 am.

Lower Road will be closed at Stone Level Crossing.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Buckland Farm Road and Elverton Lane.

The alternative route is via Lower Road, Lower Norton Lane, A2 London Road, Four Oaks Road and Lower Road.

VARIOUS ROADS, SWALE (JANUARY 2012)
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Various Roads, Swale, on or after 30 January 2012 as shown below.

CHAUCER ROAD, SITTINGBOURNE will be closed at the east junction with Homewood Avenue on or after 30 January 2012 for up to 1 day.

Access remains available from the west junction with Homewood Avenue.

PETTFIELD HILL ROAD, THROWLEY will be closed between the junctions with Old Hockley Road and Church Road, on or after 31 January 2012 for up to 1 day. The alternative route is via Old Hockley Road and Church Road.

MOUNT LANE, HARTLIP will be closed between the junctions with Lower Hartlip Road and The Street, on or after 1 February 2012 for up to 1 day.

The alternative route is via Lower Hartlip Road, Hollow Lane and The Street.

The planned closure times are between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm, with the roads re-opened outside these times.

PRESTON STREET, FAVERSHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of repairs to a wastewater pipe, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Preston Street, Faversham, on or after 23 January 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



The road will be closed to the south of the junction with Market Street / East Street.

The alternative route is via East Street, B2o41 Newton Road, Station Road and Preston Street.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Preston Street will be temporarily suspended from the junction with Stone Street to allow access up to the point of closure.

**WILDMARSH ROAD, LUDDENHAM
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of cable replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Wildmarsh Road, Luddenham, Faversham on or after 24 January 2012 for up to 3 days, between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Lily Cottage.

The alternative route is via Elverton Lane, Lower Road, (Bysing Wood Road) and Luddenham Hill.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

**CHURCH ROAD, BROADSTAIRS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to re-lay an electrical cable to cure local faults, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Road, Broadstairs, on or after 23 January 2012 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with Nelson Place.

The alternative route is via B2o52 Nelson Place, Rectory Road and Shuttler Road.

**LOMBARD STREET & MARKET STREET, MARGATE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Lombard Street & Market Street, Margate, on or after 31 January 2012 for up to 10 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The roads will be closed in phases working between the junctions with Hawley Street and The Parade.

The overall alternative route for all 3 phases is via The Parade, Fort Hill, Fort Crescent, Trinity Square, Trinity Hill and Hawley Street.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of New Cross Street will be reversed for all 3 phases, for the duration of these works.

The phases are as follows

PHASE 1 - LOMBARD STREET will be closed between the junctions with Hawley Street and New Cross Street.

The alternative route is via Market Street, New Cross Street and New Street

PHASE 2 - LOMBARD STREET / MARKET STREET will be closed between the junction with New Cross Street and the entrance to Market Street car park.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Lombard Street will be reversed between the junctions with Hawley Street and New Cross Street.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Market Street will be suspended between the entrance to the car park and the junction with High Street.

PHASE 3 - MARKET STREET will be closed between the entrance to the car park and the junction with High Street

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Lombard Street will be reversed between the junctions with Hawley Street and New Cross Street.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Lombard Street / Market Street (Market Place) will be suspended between the junction with New Cross Street and the entrance to the car park, to allow access.

The duration of the phases is subject to weather and ground conditions. The exact dates will be locally advised and signposted on site.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, THANET)
(SPEED LIMITS)
ORDER 2012 ROAD
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers proposes to make an Order under Sections 1(1), 2(1) and 2(2), Sections 81 to 84 of and part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended, the effect of which will introduce reduced speed limits to be enforced on the lengths of roads approaching and including the roundabout junctions and link road between them in the area commonly known as "Lord of the Manor".

Phase 1 of East Kent Access was constructed and opened several years ago and Phase 2 included the construction of the A299 Hengist Way, from "Minster roundabout", eastwards to "Cliffsend roundabout", southwards to "Sevenscore roundabout" and eastwards to "Lord of the Manor junction"; and the A256 Richborough Way from "Sevenscore roundabout", southwards to "Ebbsfleet roundabout" and A256 Ramsgate Road, from "Ebbsfleet roundabout," southwards to "Richborough roundabout".

This section of works will reduce the speed limit on the approaches to the "Lord of the Manor" roundabouts, the circulatory carriageways and the link road between them, to 30 mph. These areas are currently street lit so only terminal signs for the limits are required.

The length of the existing 40 mph speed limit on the A299 Canterbury Road East will be extended in a westerly direction from its current boundary adjacent to its junction with Windemere Avenue, to meet the 30 mph limit which will terminate 70 metres east of the mid point of its southern roundabout junction with "Lord of the Manor".

Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd has been commissioned to work in partnership with the Kent County Council to progress the legal procedures necessary to implement the proposed measures.

A copy of the scheme proposal, an explanatory statement and a plan showing the extents of the scheme can be inspected during normal office hours at the Kent County Council Offices, Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ, Thanet District Council Offices, PO Box 9, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent, CT9 1XZ, and affected Parish and Town Councils which are: Birchington and Villages PC, Cliffsend PC, Manston PC and Ramsgate TC.

Anyone wishing to support these proposals, or object to them, should write to Diane Bourne, Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd, Miller House, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6GB, quoting the name of the Order and reference No "B14225100" and stating their reasons, by no later than Monday 6th February 2012.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(A26 VAUXHALL LANE, TONBRIDGE)
(40MPH SPEED RESTRICTION)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because of the likelihood of danger to the public using a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic traveling at any speed greater than 40mph on A26 Vauxhall Lane from A26 Pembury Road to A21 northbound slip road on or after Monday 30th January 2012 between 19:00hrs and 07:00hrs for a period of up to 10 working nights or until such works are completed.

Balfour Beatty Mott MacDonald apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for resurfacing works. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Yan Wei on 0203 433 2101.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(COACH ROAD, IGHTHAM)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Coach Road Ightham between Sandy Lane and Pine tree Lane on or after Monday 16th January 2012 when required for a period of up to 2 weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Ismay Road, Back Lane and Sandy Lane.

Kent Highways Services apologise for any inconvenience caused but it is necessary for work to be carried out to install new gullies frames and covers. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Alastair Coleman on 07500080065.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(HALE STREET, EAST PECKHAM)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC TURNING LEFT)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic from turning left into Seven Mile Lane from Hale Street on or after Thursday 2nd February 2012 for a period of up to 2 weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via B2015 Maidstone Road to the roundabout and return.

BT Openreach apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to gain access to an underground structure to provide a new service. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Rachel Cross of A Plant Lux Traffic Controls on 0370 0500792.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(HIGH STREET AND ROCHESTER ROAD, AYLESFORD)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC AND PARKING RESTRICTION)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on High Street at the junction with Forstal Road/ Rochester Road and prohibiting parking on Rochester Road from junction of the High Street to the junction of Powell Close. This order will commence on or after Monday 30th January 2012 and be in place when required for a period of up to 8 weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via High Street, Bull Lane, Pilgrims Way, Rochester and Vice Versa.

Kent County Council apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential drainage works. Should you require any further information the contacts for the scheme are Kevin Gore or Jamie Finch on 08458 247800.

HIGHWAYS - District of Tunbridge Wells

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(A26 ST JOHN'S ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS)
(SUSPENSION OF BUS LANE)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order to suspend the bus lane on A26 St John's Road between Woodbury Park Road and the roundabout on or after Monday 16th January 2012 when required for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are complete.

South East Water apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to install a new water supply. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Amelia Faulkin of Clancy Docwra on 01634 873084.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(GIBBETT LANE, HORSMONDEN)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on

Gibbett Lane outside of number 2 on or after Monday 16th January 2012 for a period of up to 10 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via B2162 Maidstone Road, Brenchley Road, Furnace Lane, Gibbett Lane.

UK Power Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to provide a new service. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Derek Petts of TMS Traffic Management Company Limited on 01622 632519.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, CAPEL, TUNBRIDGE WELLS)
(SPEED LIMITS) ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under section 82 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act.

The effect of the proposed Order will introduce various speed limits on the following road or lengths of road;

Schedule 1	
Restricted Roads	
B2017 Five Oak Green Road	Between a point 160 metres southeast of it junction with Falmouth Place to a point 65 metres west of its junction with Church Lane.
Schedule 2	
40 Miles Per Hour Speed Limit	
B2017 Badsell Road	Between a point 160 metres southeast of its junction with Falmouth Place and a point 85 metres northwest of its junction with A228 Maidstone Road.
A228 Colts Hill	Between a point 500 metres southwest of it junction with Alders Road to a point 670 metres northeast of that junction.
Schedule 3	
50 Miles Per Hour Speed Limit	
B2017 Five Oak Green Road	From its junction with A26 Woodgate Way to a point 315 metres west of its junction with Hartlake Road.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Sessions House, Maidstone ME14 1XQ, between 8.30am and 5.00pm and at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Offices, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent during normal opening times.

Anyone wishing to support the new proposal or object to the proposed Order should send the grounds in writing to: The Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TR0@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 13 February 2012.

John Burr
Director Kent Highways
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 15th January 2012

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways





The explorer they tried to write out of history

SEE PAGE 41



**MAIN MAN
RUSSELL**

Masculinity is put under the spotlight in new Kane show

SEE PAGE 44

Kent Weekend



A nose around

Join a magical adventure with Pinocchio

SEE PAGE 45

PLUS: Vegetarian food is so much more than rabbit food when you visit this hutch - **food and drink p43** Keep hold of your home as you age - **property p46** Audi impresses with latest family offering - **driving p59**

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Self drive, 3 nights half board PLUS 99p Bar

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Join us for a party where the name of the game is fun. We're reviving

the 70s & 80s when Abba reigned supreme and their songs were on everyone's lips. We have organised a fabulous party weekend featuring Mamma Mia the Movie and a top Abba Tribute Band playing live.

INCLUDED:

- Mamma Mia the Movie
- Top Abba Tribute band
- 99p Bar from 6pm to 11pm every night
- Full Entertainment & Activities programme
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Jersey Spring & Summer Holidays

7 nights half board
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From £479pp

21 April, 2 June & 15 Sept, 2012

Join us for a break in Britain's warmest holiday location. Stay for 7 nights at the Hotel Ambassadeur at St Clement's Bay, on the island's sunny south coast. Prices based on 2 people sharing an en-suite room and travelling by ferry as foot passengers from Weymouth or Poole. Car ferry and flight options also available.

April 21 to 28 - £479pp: Take your car from Weymouth for an extra £95 per car, or travel by air from Gatwick for an extra £66pp.

June 2 to 9 - £579pp: Take your car from Weymouth for £195; from Poole for an extra £235 per car, or travel by air from Gatwick for an extra £90pp.

September 15 to 22 - £539pp: Take your car from Weymouth for £135; from Poole for an extra £155 per car, or travel by air from Gatwick for an extra £85pp.



INCLUDED:

- 7 nights sharing a twin/double en-suite room at the Hotel Ambassadeur, St Clement, Jersey
- 7 breakfasts & 7 dinners
- Return ferry travel Weymouth to St Helier as foot passengers - car ferry & flight options available
- Return transfers from port to hotel



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INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout
- Return rail travel from London St Pancras (Ashford/Ebbsfleet departures on request) to Amsterdam - returning from Rotterdam
- 4-night full-board cruise sharing a standard outside cabin - upgrades available
- Entertainment
- Full-day visit to Floriade
- All transfers abroad



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Escorted holiday by air from Gatwick

7 days half board

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This super holiday encompasses the regional beauty of Dalmatia, in Croatia, with its stunning beaches, cultural and historical sights of Dubrovnik and the natural unspoilt regions of neighbouring Montenegro where, in places, time seems to have passed by making few changes over the centuries.

The nearby islands offer a retreat from the mainland with a photo opportunity at every turn. Here the pace is relaxed and informal with out-of-the-way places and superb beaches.

We stay in a 3-star hotel near Dubrovnik old town with its own private beach and travel by air from Gatwick with convenient BA flights, making the most of our time abroad.



INCLUDED:

- Return flights with BA from London Gatwick to Dubrovnik
- Transfers from airport to hotel in Dubrovnik
- 6 nights at the Hotel Splendid, Dubrovnik, sharing a twin/double room with 6 breakfasts & 6 dinners
- Guided walking tour of Dubrovnik
- Excursion to Montenegro
- Escorted throughout abroad



EXPLORATION

Dr Reginald Koettlitz

SCOTT'S Forgotten Surgeon is the book that lifts the lid on the story of a Dover explorer lost to history.

A falling-out led to the achievements of Dr Reginald Koettlitz, a leading surgeon, geologist and botanist, being almost entirely erased from the records.

But painstaking historical detective work lasting eight years from writer Gus Jones, who is married to Ann, the great-niece of the explorer, has brought the story to light.

Mr Jones said: "I wanted to give credit to my wife's great-uncle, who has been effectively written out of history. His achievements have never really been recognised – people have never heard of Dr Koettlitz, but he was a major figure during the heroic period of polar exploration.

"He was an expedition surgeon and scientist with a wide expertise in survival in the polar regions. In particular he was an expert with regard to the prevention of scurvy, still a common disease among polar explorers who refused to adhere to the lessons learnt by the native northern people over thousands of years."

The book has been widely praised by academics, and Dr Ross MacPhee of the American Museum of Natural History in New York wrote: "In this year celebrating the centenary of the conquering of the South Pole... it is more than fitting to have one of the unregarded figures of Antarctic history brought to the limelight of remembrance."

The doctor's first encounter with the problems of sub-zero temperatures came in a visit to Franz Josef Land, an area currently under Russian control and forbidden to outsiders.

Mr Jones said: "His experience was gained while on the Jackson-Harmsworth Expedition, which lasted from 1894 to 1897.

"During this expedition he understood the importance of living off the land to prevent scurvy. This meant shooting the game available; polar bears – 94 killed, walrus – 30 killed and birds – 3,000 killed. He became an experienced skier, dog and pony-driver and invented the pyramid-type tent, called the Koettlitz tent.

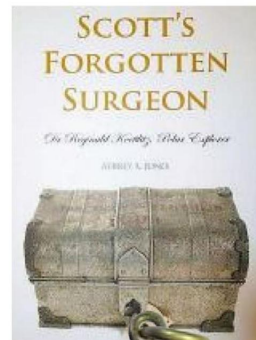
"During this expedition he met Norwegian Dr Fridtjof Nansen on his return from the attempt on the North Pole. They had a shared love of geology and maintained a personal correspondence until Dr Koettlitz's death."

His next expedition was to north-east Africa, from what was then British Somaliland, on foot, camel and mule across the desert and then up the Blue Nile to Khartoum and finally Cairo.

A gold sovereign with the image of St George

Forgotten hero of the ice

A new book reveals the story of Dover explorer Dr Reginald Koettlitz, whose exploits had almost been erased from our history, as **Nick Ames** reveals



6699

His expertise was available to Scott but was ignored as members played football rather than learn to ski



impressed Christian priests in Abyssinia and the explorer became the first Westerner to chart Abyssinians' lifestyle and religious beliefs, which included legends of the Ark of the Covenant being in their possession.

The Amazon was Dr Koettlitz's next destination and en route to the Brazilian city of Manaus he amassed one of the largest collections of marine wildlife ever made.

Mr Jones said: "He was appointed senior surgeon and botanist during Commander Robert Falcon Scott's National Antarctic Expedition on board the Royal Research Ship Discovery to the southern continent from 1901 to 1904.

"His expertise was available to Scott in the planning and execution of this expedition, in particular with regard to the prevention of scurvy and general polar-survival skills such as skiing, pitching tents, using the primus stove, using dogs and so forth. But it was ignored or overlooked at the members played football rather than learn to ski.

"There was a personality clash – Dr Koettlitz was a serious, scientifically-minded individual and could not abide the 'jolly japes' and the amateur attitude shown by a number of the naval officers and some scientific staff.

"In a letter to his brother he wrote 'They are a different class of man to any I have associated

with before, and a class not altogether to my taste except now and then, the reason being that everything is a joke with them. Life is a joke, everything one says, and every argument or topic of conversation is turned into an absurdity'."

And in a letter to fellow explorer Nansen, Dr Koettlitz writes: "These naval and other officers look upon everything that happens and that they do as a 'bit of fun', as sport, and they do it in sporting style. There is no backbone in it, and much of it is carelessly done."

Mr Jones said: "Scurvy should never have made an appearance when so much fresh meat was available, but it did. There was little or no training in polar survival and Scott, fellow explorer Ernest Shackleton and Edward Wilson [Dr Koettlitz's deputy] were lucky to survive their trip south across the ice barrier."

When the expedition returned, the surgeon's name was even omitted from the medical records of the expedition.

"It was a huge disappointment to him and he spent the rest of his life in South Africa, where he was a successful doctor," said Mr Jones.

"Scott died on his second expedition, and I feel had he adopted Dr Koettlitz's methods they might have made a difference."

■ Scott's Forgotten Surgeon: Dr Reginald Koettlitz, Polar Explorer, by Aubrey A Jones, is available from whittlespublishing.com.

IT'S COLD COMFORT: Gus Jones's book reveals how Koettlitz was one of the foremost experts on polar survival during the 19th century and how his techniques could perhaps have saved Robert Scott's life during his ill-fated trip to the Antarctic

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MAISY seeks male who likes dogs, country walks, beach, meals out and knows there own mind for a relationship and to build memories, fun loving lady 47. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383733 ☺

CAROL alone on a Saturday night with a bag of chips, what am I doing? Sick of being single and looking for a male who can handle a good women. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383119

SHARON 5ft 7ins, slim blonde, attractive, funny, good job, nice home, sports car, well educated/travelled, newly single and looking for love. Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383113

ERIN attractive petite divorcee with own home, looking for nights in/out, friendship and maybe more with mature male. Looks/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383111

ALEX attractive professional, separated, no ties, OHAC, seeks similar romantic male for love, companionship and more. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383049

SHARON 33, slim blonde, blue eyes outgoing, attractive, looking to put some much needed fun back into life, seeks male 30-45yrs. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383047

LOOKING to start the New Year of with a bang? Faye open minded 29yr old female just looking for fun times. Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383045

FEMALE 58, 5ft 1ins, hazel eyes, cuddly, caring, likes animals, drink, good food, seeks likeminded male to share life with. Is that you? Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383669 ☺

SANDRA 63, likes cuddles, varied interests, WLTm male with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383497

TRISHA teacher, blonde, attractive, uncomplicated, undemanding, non materialist well travelled, likes reading, walking, laughing, seeks tall, professional male, 60's for simple joys. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379891

ANGELA Scottish female, dark hair, green eyes, attractive, new to the area, no ties, OHAC, seeks gentle male for good times and more. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382227

DAWN young looking slim attractive fashionable 40's female, cultured and educated, discreet, WLTm genuine male for mutually convenient relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382223

KATIE pretty slim blonde female, 35, N/S, likes pubs, countryside, meals out, seeking outgoing male for fun times, maybe relationship. Interested? ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382205

CLARE petite dark haired attractive female with lots of interests, seeking male for mutual companionship. Must be respectful and discreet. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382203

LISA attractive dental nurse 25, been hurt in the past, looking for romantic male, 35-50yrs for loving friendship, maybe more. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382201

SUSIE tactile 33yr old female who loves fast cars and motorbikes, seeks genuine male prepared to live life in the fast lane, 35-50yrs. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382163 ☺

BLACK female, professional, African, 5ft 2ins, size 12, late 30's, hardworking, no ties, seeks man for serious relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389090

FEMALE 42, African, understanding, outgoing male, 45-50 for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383001

MARY fun loving brunette, seeking friendship and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382689

BERYL 57, likes fishing, home life, seeks gent, 60-65. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382503

TALL slim, blonde, blue eyed voluptuous female, seeks older male, 70 plus for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382453 ☺

SARAH 29yr old slim brunette with many interests seeks sincere male, 28-40yrs for fun times and more. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382161 ☺

STEFF 32, slim, hazel eyes, long hair, curvy size 10, likes cosying up, cuddles, tickles, sick of being lonely and bored, not looking for complications just love. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382159 ☺

ANN slim blonde female, lovely big blue eyes, great personality, outgoing, employed, OHAC, WLTm caring 40's male for adult fun and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382085 ☺

DEBBIE dark haired passionate classy, discreet female looking for professional intelligent male wanting mutual companionship. Can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380441 ☺

DEBORAH 38 missing that special someone in my life. Call me, even if you're not the one I guarantee we still will have loads of fun! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380439 ☺

FEMALE 74, 5ft 1ins, artistic, versatile, seeks nice caring gent for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378465 ☺

LADY late 50's, new to area, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378403

WANNA spend Chrimbo with a big busty bimbo? Tracy separated and looking for Mr Fun! Come on you have to lose. Call me. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380009

SHIRLEY young looking tall attractive fit female, OHAC, open-minded, varied interests seeks tall male for genuine dates. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380005

BLACK female, 35, GSOH, caring, loving, kind, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376611 ☺

CLAIRE 38 blue eyes, blonde, voluptuous, curvy, looking for professional gent up to 50yrs LTR. Call me to meet up for a casual drink and chat. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380881

FEMALE likes coast walks, shopping, gardening, countryside, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381463 ☺

TIA 38yr old attractive blonde female, likes keep fit, home life, looking for similar genuine romantic for sensual relationship and good friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382081 ☺

WENDY enjoys most things in life and is up for anything, whatever you fancy? I'm willing to give it a go! Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382079 ☺

MARIA 47, curly blonde hair, 5ft 6ins, size 14, GSOH, likes reading, walks, WLTm kind, friendly, fun loving gent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380509 ☺

SUSAN 53, 5ft 3ins, slim, likes cinema, theatre, meals out, looking for male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380317

GWEN lovely dark haired, dark blue eyed slim sensual female with GSOH, WLTm male 35-50 for fun dates and romantic nights in together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380443 ☺

JACQUELINE 49, medium build, brown hair, likes animals, nights in/out, coastal walks, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381439 ☺

JAYNE tall blonde, blue eyes, attractive, OHAC, no ties, enjoys nights out, romantic nights in, WLTm male up to 55yrs for fun times, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381365 ☺

EMMIE 28yr old lonely single mum all out of love, looking for good company with male who can tame a confident beautiful sensual lady. Any looks. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381363 ☺

LOVELY tall slim nurse, very caring and fun but missing that va-va-voom! Seeks adventurous male who's up for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374159 ☺

CHERYL young 54, attractive, petite, brunet, slim, likes most things, easygoing, looking for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380141 ☺

MARIE solvent, independent, likes meals out, good things in life, GSOH, love pets/children, seeks honest, affectionate male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388574

KATH 41 slim size 10, attractive and hardworking, likes cosy nights in/out, seeks cuddly romantic guy for tic and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381339 ☺

TANYA attractive, fit, slim, fun, all a hot blooded male wants! Now I have your attention, 37yr single female looking for the real deal. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381335 ☺

CHRISTMAS special! Tia shy pretty female 39, seeks outgoing man to coax me out of my shell, for good times and old langsyms. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381333 ☺

45YR old female, 5ft 5ins, brown hair, cuddly, curvaceous, love animals, music, sports, seeks kind, caring, sincere, mature male, 40 plus with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381319 ☺

RACHEL blonde brown eyed slim but feminine female, 32, likes wining/dining, theatre, WLTm reliable male for diner dates and romancing. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377531 ☺

CARMEL blonde brown eyed girl, employed with OHAC, likes meals out, walking, looking for loving relationship with caring down to earth male. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380001

HANNAH 34 slim petite green eyed single mum with many interests, seeking discreet older male for mutual companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379977

SAM 35, green eyed voluptuous, busty, loves football, theatre, travel, red wine, WLTm older male up to 65yrs for sensual relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379975

MEL tall curvy attractive blonde, loves cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine, looking for some male attention and company. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379971

NINA black beauty, classy 21, loves to have lots of fun, seeks older man who is willing to come up with a few new ideas for adult fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381361 ☺

ANITA 58, 5ft 3ins, auburn hair, green eyes, likes swimming, bowling, shows, holidays, walks, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387416

KATH slim, petite size 10, hardworking attractive, OHAC, seeking loving romantic guy to enjoy cosy nights in cuddling up with a dvd and glass of wine. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381729

JULIE late 70's, petite, widowed, seeks gent with car and GSOH who loves animals. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379277 ☺

TANYA 28, beautiful black single mum, very body confident and all out of love. Lonely and looking for good company with experienced respectful man. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381727

HI genuine, fun to be with male? Nancy 39, attractive, discreet, lonely and in need of some much missed male attention. Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381705

IRENE looking for happy go lucky relationship with trustworthy male for romantic evenings in, quiet nights out, passionate weekends away and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381701

KERRY 31 outgoing confident with laid back attitude, looking for relaxed relationship with tactile male, any age/looks/size or status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381697

TARA 51 big blue eyed babe with a cute smile looking for older sugar daddy who is not afraid to spend a little to live a lot! Good times always guaranteed. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381731

JO bubbly, fun, red hair, green eyes, 5ft 5ins, likes nights out, dvds, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374337 ☺

LOOKING for a nice soul mate, dinners, drinks, walks, someone who enjoys life, I am optimistic, happy, fun, cuddly, slim, red hair, enjoy good food, working out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379865 ☺

CARRIE 28yr old Christmas cracker, seeking easygoing confident character to pull me! ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380855

SUE long blonde haired slim but curvy pretty female, loves to live life to the full, good wine, shopping, seeking genuine male 48-60yrs for adult friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380853

I don't wanna be alone and unattached for another Xmas! Bev, attractive, big hearted, many interests, seeks male willing to take an interest in me! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376593 ☺

KAZ 32yr old intellectual mixed race female, likes gym, meals in/out, seeks reliable, honest male, 38-58yrs to get to know for ltr. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376591 ☺

NATALIE blonde blue eyed nurse, 39yrs medium build, no ties, life is good but I'm missing someone to love and lust after. Can you help? Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376589 ☺

AUDREY recently widowed, seeks lonely gent for friendship and conversation. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381213

ALICE 30's female, slim, lovely smile, not that happy at the moment but hoping you might change that, you've nothing to loose? Call me. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379201

Men Seeking

HAPPY go lucky divorced man, 48, 6ft, well built, seeks gorgeous female to share love and laughs with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383719 ☺

LOVING genuine male, 41, seeks similar loving lady, 30-65 for loving relationship and future together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383715

TV Sarah, tall, slim, long legs, seeks female who enjoys the company of a sexy, experienced TV. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383753 ☺

29YR old lonely male, hurt in past, likes nights in/out, seeking good company with a female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383709 ☺

CHRIS young 52, caring, easygoing, GSOH, looking for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383665 ☺

DAVID 62, N/S, caring, considerate, reliable, no ties, seeks romantic, understanding lady 55-67 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383505 ☺

50YR old male, slim, 5ft 6ins, down to earth, GSOH, honest, likes music, country walks, pubs, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389206 ☺

YOUNG male, 55, seeks attractive black girlfriend, N/S, likes country pubs, seaside, music, semi professional musician. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383151 ☺

CHRIS 33, likes marathon running, nights out, cinema, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382959 ☺

EASYGOING cheerful, decent man, 64, 6ft, 13st, blue eyes, educated, romantic, seeks nice, slim, elegant female, 47-57. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382933

EARLY 40's male, handsome, strong, looking for fun times with likeminded female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389128 ☺

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MICHAEL 58, retired, 6ft, many interests, fit, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382519

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FOOD & DRINK

Flavours of Kent

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Vegetarian Hutch offers so much more than tasteless rabbit food

DEDICATED vegetarian restaurants are few and far between, so it is good to see that one has opened in Canterbury.

The Hutch offers non-meat-eaters the sort of fine-dining experience that is rarely associated with vegetarian food, which has a reputation – deserved or otherwise – for sometimes being a little tasteless.

The menu has a wide range of dishes. I started with sliced golden beetroot on a bed of quinoa (a grain that originates in Latin America and is apparently high in protein) and puy lentils.

This was the first time I had eaten the couscous-like quinoa. It was certainly a bit more nutty compared with rice or bulgar wheat and a hearty starter that you couldn't help feel must be doing you some good while you ate it.

The golden (well, orange, really) beetroot was not the usual boiled variety but had been left nice and crunchy to give the dish some bite, while there was a red beetroot dressing with rocket, just to add to the flavours.

Despite a fair-sized helping, the dish did not fill me up before the main course. My partner (a vegetarian of many years' standing) enjoyed a hearty bowl of root-vegetable soup with some nice home-made bread. She also enjoyed being in a restaurant where we could share each other's food for a change.

RESTAURANT REVIEW



For the main, I chose the item on the menu that most resembled a meat dish: Haggis Wellington, a tasty combination of grains, pulses, vegetables and nuts wrapped in pastry. It was accompanied by some tasty braised cabbage and potato mash served with red-wine gravy.

This was certainly a hearty main meal ideal for a cold winter evening. Nothing was left on the plate, which suggested another helping would not have gone amiss.

My partner chose a butternut squash tart with celeriac and Stilton accompanied by roast vegetables and spicy leeks, which certainly smelt as good as it sounded.

To finish, I had a poached pear accompanied by ice-cream and a non-dairy chocolate sauce sat on a crunchy biscuit. This made a nice light dessert, the ideal end to my meal.

My partner chose a Kent-orchard crumble with ginger ice-cream – a nice, large plateful that needed some willing assistance from me to polish it off.

The Hutch's fare made a nice change from the usual meat-focused food I normally eat.

I am sure that whether you are a dedicated vegetarian or just the occasional non-meat-eater, you will enjoy the menu, most of which is suitable even for hardcore vegans.

Although a little more expensive than the average veggie dish found on a restaurant menu, you can tell that a lot of effort has gone into preparing the food.

And at just under £50 for two of us, plus a glass of red wine and some refreshing Biddenden cider, it did not exactly break the bank.

Judging by the quick turnover at the tables, it would be wise to book your table as well.

Ed Hill

■ **The Hutch**
13 Palace Street, Canterbury
Telephone: 01227 766700
www.thehutchcanterbury.co.uk

FARMERS' MARKETS

WAREHORNE: All profits go toward the upkeep of the village hall. The market, which is run by volunteers, takes place on the fourth Sunday of the month between 10am and 12.30pm.

YALDING: Open on the third Saturday of every month in the high street. Products include fruit and vegetables (including organic), bread, cheese, fresh meats and sausages.

ST MARGARET'S: Running for over 12 years on the last Friday of the month (9am to 12.30pm). It is a non-profit-making charity and the market is the main fund-raising activity for the village nursery, benefiting the community.

HORSMONDEN: Held every other Friday with some 20 stalls, covering a full range of produce including meat, eggs, cheese, fruit and vegetables, bread, jams and pickles, pies, cakes, exotic produce and Italian meals.

HEADCORN: Open every second Saturday from 9.30am to 12.30pm at the village hall. It aims to provide good-quality local produce and locally-made goods.

PENSHURST: The Times recently named this market in its Top 10 markets in the UK. With more than 30 stalls offering the best local food and drink, and set against the backdrop of Peshurst Place, this hugely popular market is held on the first Saturday of each month.

■ For more information on farmers' markets around the county, visit www.farmersmarkets.org.uk



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tony.peers@aficareliefttrust.org

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KENT ATTRACTIONS

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Why habitat is the word Fun learning

Port Lympe Wild Animal Park
 Open 10am-4pm
 0844 8424647
www.aspinallfoundation.org

VISITORS to Port Lympe Wild Animal Park this month can go on trails and take part in activities to find out about animal habitats. January's theme days will

include talks on why so many animals' habitat is vanishing all over the world, from rainforest to savannah, and what this means for the different species. Animal director Adrian Harland said: "We have decided to have a specific theme each month at the park. Visitors can become involved in the activities and trails and find out more about the animals here and our conservation work." You can take part in trails leading them through 600 acres, finding clues, solving riddles and learning facts.

Green tips Be a better gardener

Godinton House, Ashford
 From Friday, February 24
 01233 643854
godinton-house-gardens.co.uk

IF your new year's resolution is to burn off some calories, or to take up a new interest, Godinton House has a new programme of gardening workshops for 2012. The year starts with a rose-pruning morning on Saturday, February 4, with head gardener Viv Hunt. The sessions will give tips on how to produce better-flowering, healthy plants, with advice on year-round care. Running from Friday, February 24, the Practical Gardener course is for anyone who wants to learn how to get the best from their outside oasis. There will be six morning sessions of practical skills to help fill the gaps in your knowledge of the garden. The course will be held on Friday mornings from 9.30am to 1.30pm and costs £175.



A tragic tale in song The life of Eva Cassidy

The Central Theatre, Chatham
 Saturday, February 25
 01634 338338
 email: boxoffice@medway.gov.uk

AWARD-WINNING musical Somewhere Over The Rainbow heads to The Central Theatre in Chatham next month. The compelling show tells the extraordinary life story of American singer-songwriter Eva Cassidy. The show, which will feature hits like Songbird, What A Wonderful World and the title track Over The Rainbow, features popstar Maureen Nolan. The show follows Eva's life through dramatic scenes and live renditions to her tragic death in 1996, aged just 33. The show also stars Sarah Jane Buckley from Hollyoaks and Rob McVeigh from BBC's Any Dream Will Do. Tickets start at £17.50.

Moans about masculinity Russell Kane

Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
 Friday, March 2, at 8pm
 01892 530613

AFTER a sell-out run at the Edinburgh Festival this year, TV funnyman Russell Kane brings his new show to Kent. As part of a 57-date UK tour, Manscaping will see the

Comedy Rocks regular and ITV2 I'm A Celebrity, Get Me Out Of Here presenter explore the state of masculinity in the modern world. Manscaping is Kane's examination of the 12 possible shapes that manhood takes over the years. Kane won both the Foster's Edinburgh Comedy Award and the Barry Award at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival in 2010 and is one of the up-and-coming performers on the UK circuit. Tickets £17.50 from www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.



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EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

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Victorian celebrations Joint birthday bash

The Historic Dockyard, Chatham

Friday to Tuesday, February 13-17
01634 823845
www.thedockyard.co.uk

THE Historic Dockyard, Chatham, is celebrating the birthdays of two of the most famous 19th-century icons of entertainment, Charles Dickens and Punch and Judy. Author and Medway resident Dickens would have been celebrating his 200th birthday, while Mr Punch would be 350. As part of these half-term celebrations, parents can bring their children to the dockyard for indoor Victorian fun and games, including the traditional puppet show and Dickensian story time as well as the chance to make their very own Victorian toy. There will also be a traditional tug of war to test parents' strength.

With strings attached Pinocchio

Astor Theatre, Deal

Sunday, January 29
01304 370220
info@theastor.org

THE Strangeface Theatre Company will be performing The Amazing Adventures Of Pinocchio at Astor Community Theatre later this month. Based on the original story by

Carlo Collodi, the award-winning team brings a mix of masks, puppets and music to this tale of mischief and temptation. Pinocchio is the original puppet in a pickle who takes us on a journey from his first moments as a talking log through a series of scrapes with fairies and a sinister puppetmaster. This production also includes Strangeface's traditional backstage tour. Families with children aged five and over are welcome. Tickets cost £6 for adults, £4 for children and £15 for a family of four.



Classic music for the soul Top orchestra

The Shirley Hall, Canterbury

Saturday, February 11
01227 763965
www.crowthersofcanterbury.co.uk

THE Festival Chamber Orchestra will be performing its new concert Music To Feed The Soul in February. The orchestra will be joined by the counter-tenor Michael Chance, who has established a worldwide reputation as one of the top male alto voices and is equally in demand as an opera, concert and recording artist. Anthony Halstead will conduct the orchestra for this special concert. Halstead is widely known as a virtuoso on the natural horn but has gradually moved into the role of conductor and even directed the Academy Of Ancient Music, the Orchestra Of The Age Of Enlightenment and, most notably, the Hanover Band. The music includes Elgar's Soliloquy For Oboe, to be played by Ian Crowther, and Bach's Concerto For Oboe And Violin In D Minor.



Oh Boy! It's all about the 60s Buddy reborn

The Orchard Theatre, Dartford

Thursday, February 23
01322 220 000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

SIXTIES icon Jess Conrad is joining the cast as special guest in the upcoming tribute show Buddy Holly – A Legend Reborn. Conrad was discovered on TV

show Oh Boy! and became a chart-topper with his singles Mystery Girl, Cherry Pie and This Pullover before starring on the silver screen and the West End stage. Buddy Holly – A Legend Reborn stars the UK's top Holly impersonator Marc Robinson, backed by a band reminiscent of The Crickets in their 50s heyday. Bop to classic hits like Peggy Sue and That'll Be The Day before a Stars In Their Eyes-style performance that includes The Fortt Brothers as The Everly Brothers and Jess Conrad as himself.

STAGE & ARTS

To be included on this page, please email
features@kosmedia.co.uk

Tripping the folk fantastic Los Salvadores

The Avenue Theatre, Sittingbourne

Friday, February 3, at 7.30pm
01795 471 140

THREE bands from Kent's new wave of folk music are playing at The Avenue Theatre in Sittingbourne as part of The Gunpowder Works show in February. Rising stars Los Salvadores combine traditional music with a range of orchestral and world influences to create a multilayered blend of melody and rhythm. The group have already proved a huge hit on the folk festival circuit in 2011 and their following has grown with the quartet's increasing profile. Los Salvadores are hitting the road with fellow alternative folk acts Wheels and The Flowing as part of a three-date Kentish theatre tour. Tickets cost £5 each and are available online through www.avenue theatre.co.uk or by phoning the box office on 01795 471140.



Basil and Sybil back in tow Fawlty Towers

Granville Theatre, Ramsgate

Tue, February 28-Sat, March 3
01843 591750
www.granvilletheatre.com

FANS of the British sitcom Fawlty Towers will be thrilled at the prospect of seeing the show re-created live on stage at the Granville Theatre... just don't mention the war.

East Kent Productions will perform three classic episodes including The Hotel Inspector, Communication Problems and The Germans. Taking on one of the best sitcoms in British history is dangerous, but the group has already been successful with previous stage adaptations of Are You Being Served? and Shut Your Eyes And Think of England. Book tickets in January for the 7.30pm show on Tuesday, February 28, or the 2.30pm show on Saturday, March 3, and receive two for one.



Handel's Messiah The best of Baroque

Canterbury Cathedral

Saturday, January 21, at 7.30pm
01227 787787
www.marlowetheatre.com

THE Canterbury Choral Society will perform the stunning Handel's Messiah at the cathedral next week. Composed in 1741, The Messiah is recognised as one of the best-known and most frequently performed choral works and will be once again sung by the 150 chorus members of the popular society. They will be joined by local bass Benjamin Bevan, above, who has become a favourite with Kent audiences. The Canterbury group will also be accompanied by the London Handel Orchestra, who use many of the finest professional Baroque musicians in the country, making this a must-see event.

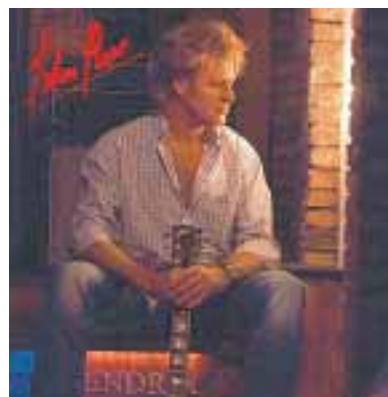
Take Route 66 for rock'n'roll US Anthems

Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells

Wednesday, February 8
01892 530613

PRODUCED in association with Harley-Davidson, American Anthems is the rock musical based on the search for a legendary star who disappeared in the early

90s at the height of his fame. Route 66 FM leads the search for Rocky Rhodes, tracking him across America for one last concert. The show features the music of Bruce Springsteen, Bon Jovi, The Eagles, Elvis and Bryan Adams, with classics like Walking In Memphis, We Built This City, Born To Run and Sweet Child Of Mine. Appearing as a guest star is John Parr, who had a worldwide hit with St Elmo's Fire. For further details, see www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.



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Funding care in your old age doesn't always mean having to sell your home

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

AS THE UK's ageing population increases, more and more people are facing the prospect of funding their own care – and wondering how they're going to be able to afford it.

Faced with such a daunting decision, many automatically think they will have to sell their home, but that isn't always the case, says Ruth Dolan, a chartered financial planner with law firm Furley Page, which has offices in Canterbury and Medway.

"People shouldn't panic into making rash decisions," she said.

"There are many options to be considered before you go down that route and it's vital you get proper advice to avoid depleting your assets unnecessarily."

Under current rules governing the funding of long-term care, the cost is an individual's responsibility if he or she has assets over £23,250.

When being financially assessed, most of the assets will be incorporated, including a home. The exception is when the home is occupied by

a partner or a relative who is over 60 or under 16.

"If you need to move into a care home, then generally, unless it is disregarded for the financial assessment or you have sufficient other assets, your home will need to be sold and the proceeds used to pay care fees. But there are options," said Dolan.

"These include taking an equity-release scheme, or purchasing a care fees annuity, which provides an income for the rest of your life."

"These are usually purchased with a lump sum, often once a property has been sold, but it may be possible to secure the cost of an annuity against the value of your house if you don't want to or can't sell it."

"In some cases it's possible to apply to the local authority for a deferred-payment scheme, which is effectively an interest-free loan secured upon the property."

"If you meet the right criteria, the authority may pay the shortfall between your income and the care fees."

"By assessing your specific circumstances in full, they can ensure you make the right decision and protect your assets in the long term."



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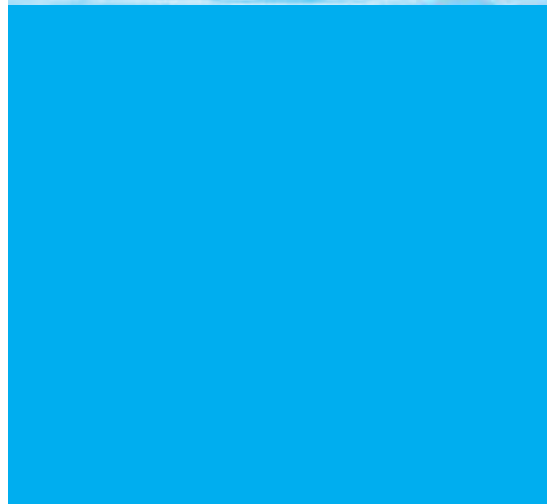
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BERWICK HOUSE

Enjoy open space

BERWICK House in picturesque Lympne is a handsome Grade II-listed Queen Anne house set in extensive gardens and woodlands

Accommodation comprises a reception hall, drawing room, dining room, sitting room, kitchen/breakfast room, study, utility room, cloakroom, master bedroom with en-suite, five further bedrooms (one en-suite), two bathrooms and a separate shower room.

There is also a double garage, orangery with heated pool and landscaped gardens spread across 2.5 acres.

The village of Lympne offers good facilities, including a primary school and road and rail links. Westenhanger mainline railway station and junction 11 of the M20 are easily reached via a few minutes' drive, placing Ashford and beyond within easy reach.

The high-speed rail link from Ash-

ford International station offers a journey time of just 37 minutes to London St Pancras.

The ancient Cinque Port of Hythe (three miles away) offers good local amenities, together with a selection of shops, including Waitrose and Sainsbury.

The cathedral city of Canterbury (15 miles) and the towns of Ashford and Folkestone offer extensive shopping and leisure activities, together with a fine range of educational facilities both in the independent and state sectors.

For the Continent, the Channel Tunnel terminal on the outskirts of Folkestone is within easy reach by car, as are ferries from Dover.

The property is offered at £875,000. Further details are available from agents Champion and Company; phone 01303 260666.



TIMBER LODGE

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SET in a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, with far-reaching views down to the Kent coast as far as Dungeness, Timber Lodge offers a modern, comfortable and contemporary living space, with the benefit of landscaped gardens, views over fields and a large roof terrace to take advantage of the superb outlook.

A uniquely-designed detached family home in the village of Charing, it has been extensively renovated and updated by the owners to create an interesting and inviting property.

With reversed accommodation arranged over two floors to make the most of the views, there are such notable benefits as a 24ft 10in kitchen/diner with gloss-white units and oak worktops, cloakroom, living room with double patio doors overlooking the gardens and an 18ft 11in television/reception room.

On the lower ground floor there is a master bedroom suite with en-suite bathroom, two further double bedrooms, each with its own en-suite shower room, a single bedroom/study, an additional family shower room and boiler/utility room.

There is a roof terrace that is just ideal for alfresco dining and relaxing, offering superb views over the well-tended rear gardens, neighbouring fields and down to the coast.

To the front, there is a driveway with parking for numerous vehicles, steps leading down to the front of the property and side access to the rear gardens.

Timber Lodge is priced at £565,000. For further details about this property, phone Saddlers on 01233 713127, email property@saddlersresidential.co.uk, or visit www.saddlersresidential.co.uk.

WEAR BAY CRESCENT

Edwardian home is filled with character

WEAR Bay Crescent is an excellent period property that is now on the market for £245,000.

This impressive Edwardian-built semi-detached family-size house is in the popular East Cliff area of Folkestone with some excellent sea views from the upper balcony that leads from the master bedroom.

There are three further bedrooms, an entrance hall, two reception rooms and a kitchen with an additional breakfast room. There is a storeroom with potential as a study, a bathroom, a downstairs toilet,

gas central-heating and on-site parking.

This really is a house full of character, with many period features and stripped-pine joinery and floors.

It offers excellent family accommodation, with further scope for development. Viewing is highly recommended so that the full potential of the home can be explored.

Folkestone itself is an attractive seaside town that is undergoing an arts-led renaissance, with its Triennial festival attracting praise from all quarters.

The town centre is within easy reach of the property, as is the beach and the popular Leas promenade, which has lovely views out to sea.

Folkestone is just off the M20 and has good connections by rail to both London and the Continent. Journey times to St Pancras station are just 55 minutes, while the Eurotunnel shuttle service takes about 30 minutes to reach Calais from neighbouring Cheriton.

For further details and to take a look, phone H Wald & Co on 01303 212020.



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FEATURE PROPERTY

Webb Close £339,000 Freehold

This is a carefully extended, well appointed Georgian style detached family house in a pleasant cul-de-sac location backing onto open ground. It is particularly convenient for the M20 and rail connections for Ashford and London. The house benefits from views towards The Downs.

The house has the benefit of UPVC replacement double glazed windows and external doors, a stylish new kitchen and bathroom, extensions to the dining room and the formation of a ground floor study. It has an entrance hall, cloakroom, living room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, side porch, study, conservatory, four bedrooms, bathroom/w.c and an attached garage.



FEATURE PROPERTY

Shorncliffe Crescent £260,000 Freehold

H Wald & Co are pleased to offer this popular style semi detached family house in a sought after convenient location. It comprises an entrance hall, living room, fitted kitchen, dining room, three bedrooms, useful loft room, bathroom, separate w.c., gas central heating, UPVC replacement double glazing, a detached garage, a good onsite parking space and attractive gardens.

The house has been well re-modernised in recent years and internal viewing is strongly recommended.



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GRIMSTON GARDENS £650 pcm



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London Buyers just keep coming!

Originally detached from Mainland England The Isle of Thanet has a varied landscape and diverse culture, offering both seaside and country living on the doorstep of Europe. 25 miles of sandy beaches, sprawling bays, intimate coves, a Royal Marina, period architecture and so much more. Is it any wonder the appeal to buy property in this area is as great as it has ever been.



Some of the stunning views from around Thanet

Once known as DFL'S (Down From London) and for merely flirting with the idea of buying a home by the sea, their interest more a passing fad than an actual desire to buy a home. But this could not be any further from the truth in today's market, especially in Margate, Ramsgate & Broadstairs where out of town buyers are now moving to the coast in droves.

In some weeks out of town buyers generate more enquiries than local people looking to move here and during the summer months this trend shows no signs of slowing down. Irrespective of people's perceptions of what is happening in the housing market during this recession we are experiencing considerable viewing activity across The Isle.

The key reasons why you may ask?



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Demand is strong and we are finding that the buyers are highly motivated, primarily cash and no connected chains! Their preference is the period properties located in the Crescents and Squares of Ramsgate & Margate. Recent sales have included a fully refurbished Grade II listed 5 bed Georgian town house in Chapel Place Ramsgate which sold for £385,000. A double fronted Grade II listed home in Caroline Square Margate sold for £106,250! A substantial property in Grosvenor Place Margate with a self contained 1 bedroom flat recently sold at the asking price of £225,000.

A magnificent Victorian 4 storey town house located on Inverness Terrace Broadstairs in the region of £400,000.

The internet has definitely had a major impact on the number of enquiries that we now handle from out of town buyers; www.milesandbarr.co.uk regularly attracts 25,000 visitors a month with just under 50% being new visits.

Rightmove, Primelocation, Find-a-property and Homesale Network contribute heavily with daily phone calls, emails and walk-ins from clients who have seen properties on these sites which they would like to arrange viewings on. Rightmove the largest property portal, www.rightmove.co.uk, states that around 80% of people who are thinking of buying begin their search on the web.



With the recent opening of The Turner Contemporary Gallery, designed by David Chipperfield Architects, Kent County Councils vision of it being a catalyst for the regeneration of Margate's Old Town & Cultural Quarter would seem to be right. Considerable investment in the old town buildings with an eclectic mix of new shops, bars and restaurants opening up have firmly put Margate in the spotlight. So much so that Miles and Barr have taken the decision to re-open in the area to satisfy the demand for property in the immediate area.

Photographs courtesy of Steve Cort

02:59

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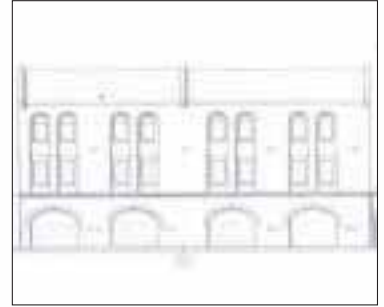
Wingham Guide Price £500,000

3.5 acre plot with planning for replacement dwelling - further 7 acres of land available.



Wilmington Guide Price £750,000

Double plot with planning for 2 detached dwellings of circa 3,600 sq ft, set in sought after location.



St Leonards-on-Sea Guide Price £250,000

Site with planning for 6 dwellings and offices - further potential, subject to planning.

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Hastings £65,000-£85,000

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Bexhill-on-Sea £130,000

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Greatstone £150,000

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Berwick £1,000,000

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Lamberhurst Quarter Guide Price £225,000

Substantial barn in 0.25 acres with planning for conversion to a dwelling of approx. 3,500 sq ft.



Petteridge £975,000 for entire site

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STYLE AND COMFORT:

Audi's A7 sees the German marque offer the comfort you would expect in an executive car but with real family appeal

Audi ticking the boxes with sporty family bahnstormer

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

HATCHBACKS may be popular in the UK, but anything bigger than the VW Golf class seems to get German buyers' backs up.

Indeed, many buy a booted Golf – the Jetta. There might even be a bit of Teutonic snobbery at work here since German premium marques have avoided them except on their most junior models – until now.

For 2011 saw the launch of two big premium bahnstormer hatchbacks: the BMW 5-Series spawned the rather overblown GT, while Audi came up with the more elegant A7 Sportback to complement its A6 line-up.

They could hardly be a counter attack to sales of Ford Mondeo and Vauxhall Insignias, but I can see the sense in offering a sporty yet practical range that fits between mainstream BMWs and Audis and their out-and-out sports cars.

In the case of the A7, you get all the comforts of the A6, but a virtual five-door coupé profile at prices from £39,995-£47,200 in the case of the A7 Sportback 3.0 TDI quattro SE S-tronic given the once over here.

You will pay handsomely if you start specing

it up, though the Sportback comes with all the creature comforts most executive car buyers would expect and they won't be disappointed with driving or living with the car.

One earlier criticism has been nullified; instead of four seats only, buyers can also specify five – a big deal for people who really are buying the A7 for its family appeal.

Cabin quality and layout is also exceptional for long family trips, though the dipping roofline makes it less of a grand tourer with four adults on board.

On the driving front, Audi has developed a bespoke chassis for the car and it shows, with a decent ride yet prodigious grip and cornering power.

Of course, the sensation is enhanced by the all-wheel drive Quattro layout – well worth the £1,400 premium – but I wouldn't expect a much inferior level of handling on the front-wheel drive version.

Some keen drivers might not like the over-assisted feel of the steering, but they will love the test car's 201bhp 3.0-litre diesel.

Matched with Audi's superb S-tronic gearbox, allowing seamless changes in either auto or manual mode, it makes the A7 a real flier as well as long-distance cruiser.

Brits set to catch Beetle bug with favourite's return

VOLKSWAGEN caused a sensation when its Californian design studio created a classic Beetle-inspired concept car for the 1994 Detroit Motor Show.

It drove the German brand to make this fantasy into a reality, using the trusted underpinnings from the then Golf hatchback to launch the New Beetle.

A lengthy UK waiting list showed Brits also fancied the modern re-creation, which remained in production for 12 years until axed last year.

With order books already open, look out for another waiting list ahead of its replacement in April, priced from about £15,000 and looking smarter, sportier, more upmarket and expected to be a far better drive.

The new New Beetle should also appeal to both sexes – let's face it, the old car's plant-holder on the dashboard was never going to endear it to blokes, was it?

The two-door four-seat Beetle layout is retained

but, like its predecessor, the latest car is front-engine front-wheel drive, unlike the rear-engine rear-driven 1930s original.

It is also longer, wider and lower than the outgoing design, with a slightly longer wheelbase, making it look like a cross between the previous car and a traditional Porsche coupé.

The sporty interior is more upmarket too, while VW has addressed the old car's lack of bootspace.

Engine options comprise three petrol and one diesel but with two turbocharged petrol units only from launch: a 103bhp 1.2-litre with VW's seven-speed DSG manual/auto gearbox and a 158bhp 1.4-litre with six-speed manual.

There are three trim levels – Beetle, Design and Sport – with air-con and digital radio, alloys, multi-function leather steering wheel and Bluetooth as standard, with lavish options such as a panoramic sunroof and BMW Mini-style customising options.



AUDI A7 SPORTBACK
MINI ROAD TEST

Price:
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Image:
★★★★★

Space:
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Value:
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*Not available on Expression, ES, ES Tech models. **Finance Deposit Allowance not available on Astra GTC. Model shown is New Astra SRi 5dr. Finance provided by Vauxhall Finance, a trading style of GMAC UK plc. PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Finance is subject to status, terms and conditions. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-2k (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 19 December 2011. †Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply.

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Kia on fast road with Rio

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

LONG before Bing Crosby and Bob Hope made The Road To Rio in 1947, the Road To... movie franchise was a well-established sure fire hit.

In contrast, it has taken Kia three attempts to get on the right road with its Rio model, the latest finally putting Hope-style wisecracks firmly behind and smooth Crosby-style croon-ing to the fore.

The first Rio UK buyers encountered (2001-05) was a cut-price Ford Focus with odd styling and a cheap interior, but sold at an unbeatable price.

Its successor (2005-2011) was touted as a supermini yet looked like it still wanted to be a Focus, but the ambitious Korean marque did show it was getting serious about product quality.

And now we have the latest car, launched late last year, and looking like the real deal.

It can't match the all-round appeal of the class-leading VW Polo and Ford Fiesta – the UK's best-selling car – but it is a more stylish little car at a sensible price, with decent spec and that unique seven-year/100,000-mile Kia warranty.

Like the brand's stunning Sportage SUV, the new Rio shows that former Audi ace designer Peter Schreyer – the man who created the original TT – is firmly at the helm.

With long lead times on creating a new car, he could only tweak models under development when he arrived in Korea, but it's clear he has been fully at the helm for the latest Kias.

The new Rio appears to fit the supermini classification better than its forbears, but is actually longer and wider than the previous car – the optical illusion being created by rakish coupé lines and a lower roof.

Maybe Kia should have tried the Seat/Alfa Romeo trick of placing the rear doorhandles in

KIA RIO 2 1.4 PETROL: PRICE £13,095

FACT FILE

Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Road tax:	£95 (zero year one)
Best rival:	VW Golf
Kent dealers:	
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LOOKING THE PART: Kia's new Rio can't match the appeal of sector leaders such as Ford's Fiesta or the VW Polo, but this stylish car is sensibly priced and also boasts the Korean carmaker's unique seven-year/100,000-mile warranty

the back door frames in order to suggest that the five-door hatchback was really a coupé, but there is a three-door version on the way after all.

Does it walk the talk? There's no denying that the Rio falls short in terms of driver enjoyment.

The steering feels light – great for the town – but not on the open road, and while it keeps its poise on the bends and has a light gearshift, it doesn't feel as taut as the class leaders.

Then again, refinement is good and our 107bhp 1.4-litre petrol version cruised happily on the motorway in sixth gear.

But as this is currently the most powerful engine option, the way seems to be clear for a bit more welly – hopefully, including a glamorous hot hatch version of the forthcoming three-door.

Other engines for now are an 83bhp 1.25-litre petrol – which is surely a bit too asthmatic – and two diesels: a 74bhp 1.1-litre diesel capable of averaging 70-plus mpg and an

88bhp 1.4-litre diesel, both marketed with Kia's green Ecodynamics package. Impressive though the 1.1 engine's economy and road tax exempt 99gm/km CO2 emissions are, its glacial acceleration to 60mph in 15.5 seconds must deflect many buyers towards the 1.4.

But there's not much to deliberate on about living on with the car: the Rio's dashboard is thoughtfully arranged and I was impressed at the attention given to our plug-in gadgets – there are two 12v, plus aux and USB sockets.

The cabin is spacious – particularly for those in the back – and the air of quality is impressive, with only a couple of areas where a bit more cash might have been spent, though we need to remember that prices start at just £10,595 and there is a generous spec.

Not that many people are buying Kias on price now – cars like this new Rio deserve to sell on their looks.

First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS



Lexus sales soar by a third

SALES of the all-new Lexus CT200h have enabled the Japanese premium marque to celebrate growing its volume by a third in 2011.

The hybrid is a unique in its sector and accounted for more than half of 8,269 Lexus registrations last year and, crucially for the brand's battle with German arch-rivals, two-thirds were conquest sales.



US 'evoquing' common voice

IT'S been said that Britain and America are two nations divided by a common language, so it's probably no surprise the Range Rover Evoque SUV has been named 2012 North American Truck Of The Year.

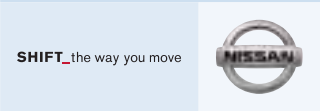
Strange terminology aside, the Detroit Motor Show's award follows plenty of UK awards, and shows the transatlantic neighbours in common voice.



New code for the C3 Picasso

CITROËN has introduced a stylish new special edition into its award-winning C3 Picasso MPV range – the Code (£15,695).

It replaces the Blackcherry special edition and is based on the best-selling hi-spec HDi 90 diesel manual VTR+ version – the extra £300 in price adds white or red 'Clover' alloys, black and chrome body detailing, roof bars and interior extras.

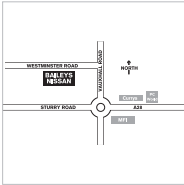


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Rio 1 1.25 3DR

Representative example for Rio 1 1.25

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Fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the new Kia Rio range are: Urban 33.6 (8.4) - 80.7 (3.5), Extra Urban 53.3 (5.3) - 94.2 (3.0), Combined: 44.1 (6.4) - 88.3 (3.2). CO2 emissions are 150 - 85 g/km. Model shown is the new Kia Rio 1.1 25 at £9,995. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers and it is available at participating dealers only. Terms and conditions apply. Guarantees and warranties may be required. Applicants must be 18 or over. Model and colour are subject to availability. All offers, finance and savings are subject to availability and are only available to private retail customers on new cars purchased and registered in the UK (excluding Channel Islands and Isle of Man) between 1st January and 31st March 2012, inclusive, sourced through Kia Motors (UK) Ltd or its authorised dealers. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers and it is available at participating dealers only. 7 year / 100,000 mile warranty terms and exclusions apply. Visit www.kia.co.uk or ask your local dealer.

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Kent's Olympic Countdown

Clock ticking on Kent's plans to join 2012 party

By David Pritchard

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THE countdown to the London Olympics and Paralympics is into the final straight and sport is set to play a high profile role across Kent over the next nine months.

It is less than 200 days until the opening ceremony in London and expectation will steadily grow between now and July.

Preparations in the county have been taking place for several years. Agreements have been signed for teams from nine different countries to train in Kent before the Games, with more deals expected to be finalised this spring.

Kent will also stage some of the glory, with Brands Hatch hosting the Paralympic road cycling in September. The party will begin in earnest when the Olympic torch relay will spend four days touring the county in July.

Critics across the country have focused on the cost of staging the Games and aspects such as ticketing have also come under fire, but Chris Hespe, head of sport, leisure and the Olympics at Kent County Council, believes the sceptics are being won over.

"Frankly I think there's going to be quite a frenzy of excitement as we approach 2012," he said.

"The community of Kent will get very excited indeed. We've been excited since 2005 when we heard the news of the successful bid, but it's within touching

distance now.

"It's more than that because it's coming into Kent with the torch relay with us for four days and we've got the Paralympic road cycling at Brands Hatch.

"This is a huge opportunity, we're never going to get the Olympics again in my lifetime and we can't afford to miss out. It's so important for sport."

In addition to the training camp agreements, Kent's sporting facilities have enjoyed many informal arrangements over the past 12 months which has seen world class athletes using the venues.

Last week, the Pegasus Gymnastics Club, near Maidstone, hosted Argentina's Valeria Pereyra, while trampolining teams from the United States, Canada, Portugal and Great Britain were at Jumpers Rebound Centre in Gillingham this week.

Martin Laws, managing director at the centre, said "We have worked hard to attract these teams and our efforts are now paying off.

"It is vital to bring the countries base camps to the area if we are to maximise the benefits of London 2012.

"We are now seeing a snowballing effect as other countries try to follow the leaders."

Other events organised during the year include an expanded Kent School Games, a youth athletics international featuring the home nations at Ashford in July and the British Transplant Games.

Bosworth not complacent of challenge to reach Games

AMONG the county's athletes hoping to have the honour of competing in front of a home crowd at this summer's Olympics is Tom Bosworth.

The race walker, who turns 22 next week, flew out to a training camp in Spain on Thursday as part of the squad's preparations.

Bosworth broke the national five kilometre walk record at the UK Championships last July and is now focused on shaving almost three minutes off his personal best over 20k to qualify for London.

Despite being optimistic of achieving the time after enjoying the most trouble-free

winter training of his career, the Tonbridge athlete remains cautious.

He said: "There's no way I'm an Olympian yet, because there is quite a big possibility that I won't go.

"Anything can happen in sport and so far I've had a brilliant winter and I hopefully will have a very strong spring. I've achieved what I've done in the past off the back of injuries, so I don't see why I can't get an Olympic qualifying time after a perfect block of training."

Bosworth's first opportunity to reach the Olympic standard will be in Switzerland in March.



Cyclopark to provide concrete Olympic legacy for the county

ARGUABLY the longest lasting impact on the county from the Games is nestled next to the A2 at Gravesend.

Spread across 43 acres, Cyclopark is expected to attract 100,000 cyclists a year once it officially opens in May. Funding for the £8 million project has come from a variety of sources but is unlikely to have taken place without a successful Olympic bid.

The site includes a BMX track, mountain bike trails, a road cycling circuit and skate park. Construction on the pavilion continues but many of the cycling routes are complete. Folkestone's Daniel Pullen, a member of the Olympic BMX develop-



PROJECT: Cyclopark

ment squad, has tested the track.

The 16-year-old, who is a hopeful for the 2016 Olympics, said: "It's a brilliant facility, the amount of money that was thrown into it was worth it because all the cycling facilities are up north. Cyclopark helps the south region out. It's a great atmosphere down there, everyone's enjoying using it."

PRE-GAMES TRAINING CAMPS IN KENT

AUSTRALIA

BARBADOS

BELARUS

NEPAL

NEPAL

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

PORTUGAL

SENEGAL

SLOVENIA

UKRAINE

Athletics (Tonbridge School)

Paralympic squad (Medway Park)

Judo (Tonbridge Judo Club)

Paralympic squad (Venue TBC)

Olympic squad (Venue TBC)

Paralympic squad (Sevenoaks School)

Gymnastics & trampolining (Jumpers, Medway Park)

Olympic squad (TBC, Medway)

Gymnastics (Pegasus, Maidstone)

Judo (Tonbridge Judo Club)

2012 CALENDAR: MAJOR SPORTING DATES

Feb/
Mar

Start of Kent School Games finals

May

Cyclopark officially opens

Jun/
July

Olympic pre-Games training camps

July

17-20 Kent hosts the Olympic torch relay
20-22 Under-17 home nations athletics at Julie Rose Stadium
27 Olympic opening ceremony

Aug

Paralympic pre-Games training camps, Kent's Paralympic Roadshow
23-26 British Transplant Games, Medway
29 Paralympic opening ceremony

Sept

3-8 Paralympic road cycling at Brands Hatch

EXAMPLE: Ashford's Jamie Staff won a gold medal at Beijing in 2008
Picture: TEAM SKY



Brown believes GB side are on course for Paralympic glory

ONE of Kent's best hopes for a medal this summer lies with Britain's wheelchair rugby captain Steve Brown.

The 30-year-old helped an injury depleted side to silver at the European Championships last October.

As hosts the team have a guaranteed place at the London Paralympics and with a full strength squad will be one of the favourites to finish on the podium in September.

Sittingbourne's Brown is counting down the days until the tournament begins and is delighted with the preparation

so far.

He said: "It should go well, there's no reason it shouldn't - the coach knows what he's doing and the team knows

what's expected from them.

"We've worked very hard through Christmas to make sure our fitness is up and we're coming into this year fully fit.

"The adrenalin is within everybody. We're looking to make sure it's the

best it can be and the attention to detail is second to none.

"I'm very privileged to be captain of that team going into 2012."



Sport

For more sports news and pictures go to www.kentsport.co.uk

TUNBRIDGE WELLS V SEVENOAKS TOWN:
Kick-off 3pm Saturday at Culverden Stadium

Semi-final is up for grabs as Larkin rejects rotation

By Fred Atkins

sports@kosmedia.co.uk

WHILE Sevenoaks Town could be forgiven for feeling sick of the sight of their neighbours ahead of this Saturday's Kent Senior Trophy quarter-final with Tunbridge Wells at Culverden, the feeling certainly is not mutual.

The Wells have won their last four games against Sevenoaks, including a 2-0 home league win on December 27.

Wells manager Martin Larkin has a full squad to choose from for the tie. Carl Cornell is back from a three-game suspension and there are no injury worries to report.

Asked if he would rest players with next Saturday's FA Vase tie with St Ives Town in mind, Larkin said: "Definitely not. We don't play enough games to need to rest people [although] when the league's 46 games per season we probably will need to," a reference to the FA's proposals to restructure the game at Kent League level.

Larkin says his side are "very confident" but feels Sevenoaks' changing personnel gives the lie to any suggestion that the Wells might have something of an Indian sign over their rivals.

The form book also points towards a Wells win, however. Sevenoaks have won just one of their last eight games in the league, against bottom side Greenwich Borough, and are down in 14th, while Tunbridge Wells stayed in touch with the pack chasing leaders Herne Bay with a 2-1 win at VCD last Saturday, albeit one that was less comfortable than it might have been.



Picture: IGOR KUPCO

ONE-SIDED: Tunbridge Wells (in red) have won their last four games against Sevenoaks Town

They took the lead on 28 minutes after a clever finish from Jack Harris, but blew a golden chance to kill the Vickers off shortly afterwards when the home keeper Adam Molloy was sent off for a professional foul on the same player.

Larkin said: "A lot of refs wouldn't have given it because they wouldn't want the aggro from the dug-outs, but on this one he was spot on."

However, Andy McMath missed the resulting penalty. Down to 10 men and without a specialist substitute goalkeeper, VCD still managed to draw level a minute before half-time through James Duckworth.

However, the Wells' numerical superiority was clear during the second half and with 68 minutes gone McMath hit the winner.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS RFC V CHARLTON PARK RFC:
Kick-off 2.15pm Saturday at St Mark's

Tunbridge Wells hope for a bonus against in-form Park

THE pressure is off Tunbridge Wells ahead of this weekend's London 2 South game with Charlton Park at St Mark's according to chairman Roger Clarke.

Fixtures against the other three sides in the bottom four loom on the horizon, taking precedence over their meeting with high-flying Park.

Clarke said: "If we win those we'll stay up and that's our aim, to maintain our status. We're not going to challenge for promotion so anything we get from the other games is a bonus."

Mark Wilson and Max Edmonton will be given a half each against second-placed Park after Tom Claridge struggled last week, while Mike Doherty returns from a virus and Alex Maynard is available after delaying his return to university.

Clarke admitted the Wells were "psychologically damaged" after collapsing in the second half to lose 42-5 at Brighton last week.

They led 5-3 early on, but missed two penalties in front of the posts and trailed 17-5 at half-time.

A tactical reshuffle backfired



Picture: BRUCE ELLIOTT

SURVIVAL FIGHT: Tunbridge Wells

when James Lineham was brought on, only to be forced off with an injury moments later.

A controversial try did not help, with Brighton's winger straying six inches into touch, but as Clarke drily noted: "It was our touch judge, so we can hardly complain."

SWIMMING

Hard work pays off for Fearon at Ice Breaker

THE record book of the Royal Tunbridge Wells Monson Swimming Club had to be rewritten last week after Caitlin Fearon smashed a host of previous marks in the girls 10-11 year-old group.

Fearon moved back to the top of the UK rankings for her age group in both the 100 metres and 400m freestyle categories after a sensational performance at the New Year Ice Breaker meeting in Canterbury.

Her domination in the freestyle events was total, as she took the 50m, 100m and 400m events. There was also success in the 200m individual medley and a silver in the 200m backstroke event, setting club records for both events.

The club's new full-time director of swimming, Kim Longland, heaped praise on Fearon.

"Caitlin deserves her success," she said.

"She has been working very hard and has taken her training to a new level, embracing some challenging new training innovations which is not always easy for someone so young."



DEDICATED: Caitlin Fearon

Fearon was not the club's only star of the meeting. At the same event Monson's Charlotte Chapman won gold in the 400m freestyle and bronze in the 200m individual medley for 12-13 year-olds.

In the boys' section for the same age group Josh Harrison set a personal best to take bronze in the 100m backstroke.

Meanwhile, in the 14-15 year age group Callum Ryan finished third in both the 100m backstroke and 200m individual medley.

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL FOCUS

WITH FRED ATKINS

The downside of all-seater stadia

“DURING the peak of its powers in the mid-1980s, Spitting Image carried a sketch showing Norman Tebbit working in the ticket office of a theatre.

A customer approached him and asked if he had any restrictive views.

"Yes, hanging's too good for them," he replied. "Bring back National Service for the unemployed."

Spitting Image's modus operandi was to take a subject's most extreme characteristics and twist them out of all recognition, to produce a grotesque caricature.

Tebbit was thus portrayed as a donkey-jacketed thug, which, although inaccurate, had a certain kind of karma to it given the way his government demonised football fans in the 1980s.

Anyone who thinks there weren't serious issues with fan behaviour during the era is deluded, but the overwhelming majority of fans then, as now, were law-abiding citizens.

The strategy of treating supporters as if they were rats who needed to be caged arguably contributed to the Hillsborough disaster, but instead fans were blamed when Kelvin McKenzie ran a front page editorial in the Sun libelling Liverpool fans as corpse robbers and worse.

Clearly something needed to be done to prevent a repeat, but the Taylor Report's decree that professional football should have all-seater stadia had its downsides.

Chief among them was the fact that you could no longer choose who you wanted to stand or sit with.

An acquaintance took a child to the Gillingham v Stoke cup tie last Saturday, but left before the end because of the language used by "fans" nearby.

Under Priestfield's regulations, the miscreants could have been ejected, but the innocent fan is placed in an invidious situation. Stewards can't take action unless they're informed and the fan can't always do this without exposing themselves to even more intimidation.

Some clubs operate a text hotline to report anti-social behaviour but even this is an exercise in stable-door shutting if you're unlucky enough to be in a crowd when one idiot decides to let rip.

The problem was compounded because the Stoke game was a sell-out, making it impossible to move to alternative seating.

It's fair to say that this isn't likely to be a problem at any of Kent's non-league grounds any time soon. Consenting adults do exchange industrial strength language from time-to-time and occasionally it's audible where it shouldn't be.

The restrictive view, in both senses of the phrase, remains one of the banes of the modern game and if you look hard enough, you can still find people who make "Normo Tebbs" look like the Dalai Lama.

The advantage of the non-league game is if you are unlucky to get within earshot of someone swearing like a fishwife, you can walk away. **”**

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